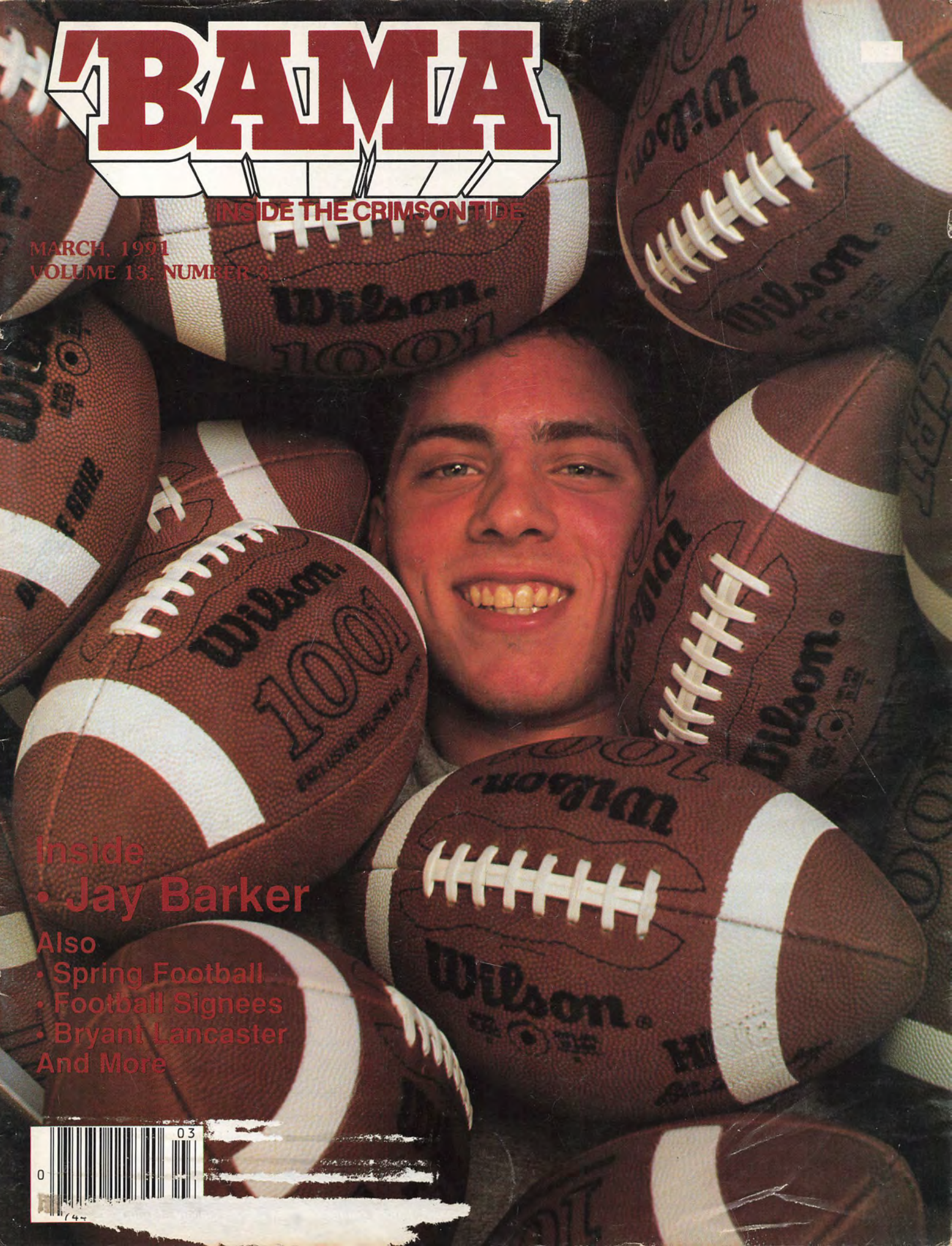
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MARCH, 1991
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3



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And More

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Barry Fikes Photo

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Last fall the Alabama Crimson Tide football team had a few spectacular victories. This winter the Bama coaching staff followed up with a major triumph, ranking among the nation's best teams in recruiting. Although there are admonitions to wait until they've been seen on the football field, the new class of Tiders has Bama fans excited. Here's a look at the 1991 football signees.
by Kirk McNair

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BAMA SCORECARD

Rouzie Returning?

Although there had been no official announcement as of this writing, 'BAMA has learned that Lance Van Zandt has resigned his position as an assistant coach at Alabama. Van Zandt, who coached Alabama's inside linebackers last year, had reportedly accepted a job in his native Texas. The hottest name rumored as his replacement is former Tide assistant Jeff Rouzie. Rouzie, who played at Alabama, was last an assistant coach for the Tide under Paul Bryant. However, he also served in the athletics department in the Tide Pride program before resigning to enter private business a few years ago.

Football Lettermen

Alabama has awarded football letters to 70 Crimson Tide players from the 1990 season. The list includes 17 seniors and three true freshmen.

Those earning final letters are:

Scott Bolt, Terrill Chatman, Philip Doyle, Spencer Hammond, Byron Holdbrooks, Gary Hollingsworth, Ripp Mitchell, Trent Patterson, Darryl Pickett, Chris Robinette, Lamonde Russell, Roger Shultz, Mike Smith, Efrum Thomas, George Thornton, Alan Ward and Lorenzo Ward.

True freshmen earning letters are tailback Chris Anderson, nose tackle James Gregory and defensive back Antonio Langham.

Other letter winners returning are:

William Barger, Willis Bevelle, Steve Busky, John Clay, Chris Cochran, Lorenzo Cole, Eric Curry, Charlie Dare, Donnie Finkley, Charles Gardner, Darren Greenwood, Lemanski Hall, Matt Hammond, Craig Harris, Monroe Harrison, Stacy Harrison, Alvin Hope;

Martin Houston, Johnny Howard, Robert Jones, Derrick Lassic, Kevin Lee, Victor Lockett, Antonio London, Jeff Marshall, Stan Moss, Mark McMillian, Keith Neighbors, Jeremy Nunley, Derrick Oden, Matthew Pine, Bragg Rockwell, Craig Sanderson, Junior Sewell;

Tobie Sheils, Byron Sneed, Robert Stewart, Brian Stutson, John Sullins, Dabo Swinney, George Teague, Kevin Turner, Jeff Wall, Derrick Warren, Eric Washington, Steve Webb, Tank Williamson, George Wilson, Prince Wimbley, and Danny Woodson.

We're Number Two

It may not have lasted long, but Alabama basketball moved over one hump with its 97 to 72 victory over Mississippi State on February 23. At the same time Bama was winning, Tennessee was losing to LSU. At the completion of games on February 23 Alabama had an all-time record of 554-390 in Southeastern Conference games and Tennessee had a record of 500-352. That works out to a winning percentage of .58686 for Bama, .58685 for Tennessee. Kentucky, of course, is the runaway all-time leader in SEC basketball with a record of 641-174 (.787).

Vanderbilt is the only other SEC team with a winning percentage over .500 in league games.

In all games played (conference and non-conference), Alabama is also second behind Kentucky and ahead of Tennessee.

Tournament Time

With the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament approaching, March 7-10 in Nashville, it's a good time to look at how Alabama has fared, particularly since the tournament was resumed in 1979 (after having been played from 1933 through 1953). Before the interruption, Bama ranked fourth in SEC Tournament play with a 16-17 record and one tournament title, two runnerup spots. Since the break Bama has a record of 22-8, far ahead of Kentucky's runnerup 16-8 mark, and the Tide has been in the championship game seven times (one more than Kentucky) with a 4-3 record (Kentucky is 3-3 and no other team has won more than one championship since the interruption).

In all-time games, Kentucky leads in every category, a 73-14 record and 16 of the 31 titles. Bama has five titles, Tennessee four and no other SEC team has more than one.

Since Wimp Sanderson took over as Alabama's head coach in 1981 he has been far-and-away the most successful tournament coach. Under Sanderson Bama has reached the finals in six of 10 tournaments, won four championships (including the last two) and turned in a record of 21-6.

The last time the tournament was held in Nashville, 1984, Bama defeated LSU in the second round, then fell to eventual champion Kentucky, 48-46.

'BAMA Is Going Up

The price of 'BAMA is going up, but you still have a little time to renew or subscribe at the old rate.

For the first time since 1983 we have been forced to increase our subscription rate in order to offset numerous expenses (not the least of which is postage) that have risen in that time.

A year's subscription to 'BAMA is now $35 per year for the 10 magazines and 14 newsletters. Alabama residents must also include an additional $2 for tax. Overseas subscriptions continue to be $10 above the regular subscription price, or $45 per year.

However, you can beat the price increase if you renew or subscribe by April 1, 1991.

A relatively few of you buy 'BAMA on the newsstand and you have probably already noticed the price increase that is in effect.

All-Star Nominees

Tournament time is also the time when the all-star teams are announced. Alabama's sports information office has nominated three players for all-star mention–senior forward Melvin Cheatum, senior point guard Gary Waites and freshman wing guard James Robinson.

Cheatum To Japan

Senior Alabama forward Melvin Cheatum has been selected to participate in the Aloha Japan Classic '91 this summer in Tokyo. Cheatum is one of 20 college players who will participate in this event, which begins April 14. Cheatum is also a candidate to participate in an all-star game he hopes he can't make. The National Association of Basketball Coaches conducts an All-America game in conjunction with the NCAA Final Four. Players from teams *not* participating in the Final Four will play in the game March 29 in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Basketball Recruiting Dates

There are some important dates coming up for Alabama's basketball staff, which for the past two weeks has been able to evaluate potential players by watching them in games. After a quiet period (no off-campus contact or evaluation by staff members) March 1-3, the first of two contact periods (coaches may meet with prospects and their families) is March 4-22. The next contact period will be April 4-7, then spring signings begin April 10.

We'll look at some basketball prospects in next month's 'BAMA.

Chris Donnelly

Chris Donnelly was the Southeastern Conference freshman player of the year in 1989 and a solid performer last year as the safety for the Vanderbilt Commodores football team. Donnelly, who is from Germantown, Tennessee, has been rumored as having transferred from Vanderbilt and one of the schools to which rumor has him transferred is Alabama. Word from the Bama sports information office is that Donnelly has *not* transferred to Alabama for spring practice. That, of course, does not rule out the possibility of him being in Tuscaloosa in the fall. If he does transfer he will not be able to participate in games this season, but would be able to practice. He would have two years of eligibility remaining beginning in 1992.

Who Will Be Recruiting?

A new NCAA regulation goes into effect this year, limiting the number of football coaches who may go on the road recruiting. Each staff (currently a head coach and nine fulltime assistants) may designate seven as recruiters. Will that be seven assistants or six assistants and the head coach? Unless some agreement is reached,

in the Southeastern Conference or at some other level, it will be difficult for a head coach to unilaterally take himself out of the off campus recruiting picture. And even then, how does one determine which two coaches are taken off the road?

Of course, a much more difficult decision is facing the nation's head coaches. After next season the number of fulltime assistants allowed on staff will be reduced by one.

A Look Ahead

A tradition of **'BAMA** each spring is to take an early look at some of the top high school football players in Alabama who will be seniors in the fall, and who will also be on early lists of among the top prospects in the state. Another tradition is we remind you that we have no inkling now as to whether Crimson Tide coaches consider these young men to be college prospects or whether these young men would be interested in playing at Alabama. As always, some we have not yet heard of are or will become top prospects. And on the other side, because of injury, academics or some other reason, one or more of these may not be prospects by the time signing time arrives in February, 1992. And so, with those disclaimers, here are those we think will be among the state's top football prospects next winter:

Kendrick Burton, 6-6, 250, defensive lineman, Hartselle; Robert Davis, 5-10, 175, running back, Homewood; Chris Fears, 6-3, 230, tight end, Smith Station; Lonzell Gowdy, 6-2, 190, back, Tuscaloosa Central; Derico Jones, 5-11, 190, running back, Thompson of Alabaster; Phillip Keef, 6-4, 240, lineman, Plainview of Rainesville; Todrick Malone, 5-11, 170, wide receiver, Etowah County; Danny McDill, 6-4, 240, offensive lineman, Etowah County; Jeremy Pennington, 6-4, 270, offensive lineman, Lamar County; Albert Reese, 6-5, 230, defensive lineman, Vigor of Prichard; Brad Sharit, running back, Hewitt-Trussville; Keith Washington, 6-3, 230, defensive lineman, Montgomery Robert E. Lee; Chris Watts, 6-2, 235, fullback, Southside of Selma; Chris Westbrooks, 6-2, 200, running back, Red Bay; and LaRon White, 6-3, 275, lineman, Courtland.

Special mention should be made of an outstanding quarterback prospect at Mountain Brook. However, Alabama fans should not expect the Crimson Tide to have much luck with Pat Sullivan, Jr.

Early Commitment

The ink was barely dry on scholarship papers signed by high school senior football players before the Associated Press reported an early football commitment to Alabama.

On Friday, February 8, two days after 1991 signing day, Joseph Cruz Turner of Decatur checked in at $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 13 pounds-9 ounces, even though he was two weeks premature. The physician who delivered the baby, Thomas C. Ray, is a Georgia graduate and he said he considered calling Georgia Head Football Coach Ray Goff when he saw the infant, the largest baby he had ever delivered. However, the parents, Wayne and Kimberly Turner, had news for the doctor: "This baby is going to Alabama."

More Signees

Did you forget about the February 13 signing date? Well, that's the day that volleyball could begin signing, and Alabama Head Volleyball Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed added two new members to her team.

The new Tiders are Melanie Ryer of Littleton, Colorado, and Jenny Veith of Florence, Kentucky.

Ryer is a 5-10 hitter from Columbine High School, where she played for Coach Dave Foster. She also plays club volleyball with the Colorado Foothills, with whom she was second team all-conference. Ryer is also an outstanding track athlete.

Veith is a 6-0 middle blocker from St. Henry High School. She was the Class A Most Outstanding Player as well as first team all-state for Coaches Wendy and Dan Tobertge. She was also the outstanding Class A basketball player in Kentucky last year.

Both are excellent students. Veith has a 4.0 grade point average.

Wright Wins Trophy Again

Tide senior Clive Wright won the 200-meter dash, placed second in the 55-meter dash and ran the second leg of the Tide's sixth place 4x400 meter relay to give him $181/4$ points and the Commissioner's Trophy for the highest point scorer at the SEC Indoor Track and Field Championships in Baton Rouge. Wright also won the trophy in the 1990 outdoor championship meet.

The Tide women placed fourth in the meet, while the Bama men were fifth. Highlight of the women's meet was Diane Francis, who set meet, school and SEC records in the 400-meter dash, just as she had a year ago. The Alabama women's 4x400 relay team (Carleen Smith, Grace Buzu, Kareth Smith and Francis) won that final event of the meet.

The Beltran Question

Three-time SEC outdoor 5,000-meter champion German Beltran of Alabama missed the indoor season. Beltran, who led the cross country team to a sixth place finish at regionals and qualified for the NCAA Championships, started but was unable to finish a run for the individual national title (he was third in 1989) because of a stretch of the planta fascia in his foot. Thus, Beltran was redshirted for the indoor season. After not being able to run for over a month, Beltran is now able to run for only a short period. The verdict is still out on whether he will be healthy for the outdoor track and field season.

Taking A Dive

Senior Mark Rourke won all three diving events in which he participated and set a new SEC record on the one-meter board as he tied for high point man in the SEC swimming and diving championships at Kentucky. Senior Jon Olsen came within three-one hundredths of a second in repeating as a three-event winner in the championships. Olsen successfully defended his 100 and 200 freestyle events and was second in the 50. Olsen's 50 and 100 clockings were school records. Bama's men finished third in the meet.

For the women, who finished fourth, the highlight was sophomore Rigga Runolfsdottir, who defeated the NCAA's two-time 100-meter breaststroke champion to take the 200-meter championship in breaststroke.

A Baseball Guess

The *Baseball America* preseason poll has Alabama picked sixth in the Southeastern Conference this year; not good, but better than the Tide did last year. And it's important to remember that the top six teams play in the SEC tournament, being played this year at LSU. The predicted order of finish in the SEC by *Baseball America* is: 1. LSU, 2. Mississippi State, 3. Auburn, 4. Florida, 5. Georgia, 6. Alabama, 7. Ole Miss, 8. Kentucky, 9. Vanderbilt and 10. Tennessee.

Tide On Television

Alabama baseball will be televised twice on the SEC Game of the Week on the cable system, SportsChannel. Both Tide games will be from Sewell-Thomas Stadium in Tuscaloosa. Bama's April 7 game with Ole Miss will begin at 1:30, while the Tide's April 20 game with Auburn will begin at noon. There is also a possibility Bama's May 11 game at Vanderbilt would be selected as a wild card game, but that doesn't seem likely. Additionally, SportsChannel will televise the SEC Tournament games.

The games will be distributed on Satcom 4, Transponder 14.

The February 'BAMA

A few days into February we were aware we were receiving more telephone calls and letters than usual regarding receipt of the February issue of **'BAMA**. By the middle of the month we had finally gotten an explanation. Somehow a large number of the magazines, which are mailed from Birmingham, were shipped from the Birmingham Post Office to one in Atlanta, where they languished for some time before being sent back to Birmingham for distribution. (Those magazines shipped to Atlanta included many that were to be delivered to subscribers in Birmingham!)

As we have pointed out before, we can change almost everything about the way this magazine is produced, but we can't get a different delivery service. Hopefully you are reading this a few days into March. And, also hopefully, you will accept our apologies if your copy of the February issue was delayed.

Ordinarily, **'BAMA** is delivered to the Post Office on the last Thursday of the month. However, the February issue was a day late, in the Post Office on Friday, February 1.

Bryant Lancaster:

Doc Is A Team Operator

by Steve Kirk

Senior wing guard starting in front of star performer doesn't mind his role if it makes Bama better

They call him Doc, but it might be more accurate to say Bryant Lancaster has been an outpatient this season.

In the medical world, an outpatient is in and out of of the hospital the same day. But this basketball-playing Doc is one up on that feat. In Bama Head Coach Wimp Sanderson's game plan, Lancaster, a starter at the two guard position, is in and out in about five minutes.

This routine is usually repeated in the second half, after which Doc, named so for his love of Julius Erving, must resume his practice on the bench.

The unusual position of "role starter" has been handed to the 6-3, 190-pound Lancaster, a self-acknowledged "easy going" person who can handle his role as defensive specialist and designated opener before giving way to heralded freshman James Robinson.

"Never talks too much," said point guard Gary Waites (demonstrating the adage: it takes one to know one) of his backcourt mate and fellow senior. "Never gets in trouble, just an easy-going person."

What he failed to add was "Never complains."

"If it helps us win ball games, I'm willing to accept that kind of role," Lancaster said. "I just do whatever it takes for us to win."

Like any athlete, the Fairfax native, whose career scoring average is just under two points a game, would like to see more playing time. But like the person who has gained the respect of his teammates for his attitude, he has learned to adjust.

Bryant Lancaster has not been a star performer for the Crimson Tide basketball team, but he has become a starter as a senior. Moreover, he had a game to remember as a junior, when he started and starred against North Carolina and Rick Fox.

University of Alabama Photo

"Since I've been here, I never really have gotten the time to play as much as I would have liked," Lancaster said. "After four years of the same thing, you either say 'I've had enough' and leave it alone or you deal with it."

Doc is a natural. His wide, bright smile suggests he's dealt with life just fine.

"Things have improved a lot for me," he said. "Through my career here, I've learned how to handle the hard times as well as the good. I think the hard times have made me mature and become a better person."

The challenges started early.

The transition from high school, where he was named the state's "Mr. Basketball" by the Alabama Sports Writers Association in 1986-87 after leading Valley high school with 21.8 points, 8.0 rebounds and 5.0 assists, proved to be a giant step.

"In high school, I was mostly an inside player," said Lancaster, "kind of a small forward. I played mostly with my back to the basket. Once I got up here to college, it was a totally different ball game, from learning how to shoot the perimeter jump shot to knowing just how deep to drive the ball into the lane before you pull up.

"Because, if you didn't, the guy was going to be slapping the ball in my face."

The entire team considered the 1987-88 season, Doc's rookie year, a slap in the face. While Lancaster played in 28 of 31 games that season and posted the best stats of his career (2.0 points, 1.0 rebound), the team finished 14-17, the only losing season in the Sanderson era.

"We really didn't have the talent that other teams had," Lancaster said. "I think we did a pretty good job with what we had."

Like most freshmen would be, Lancaster was happy with his progress and happy to have started three games that season. But what he didn't anticipate was his disappointing sophomore year–a reduced role which led to a severe lack of confidence–all this after a summer of hard work to try to get better.

The Tide started winning, but Lancaster started sitting.

He played in only 15 games and his scoring average dipped to 0.9 per game. Doc didn't start any games but he started doing a lot of thinking.

"At that point and time, I felt like I was ready to give it up," he said. "Because, when you play a lot your freshman year, you think 'Next season's going to be even better for me.'

"I was just tired of playing the game, tired of working hard and trying to get better so I could play. What basically got me through it is my belief in Jesus Christ and believing things could still work out for me."

Lancaster's regular church attendance and his close relationship with the Rev. Sylvester Croom and son Kelvin Croom have meant a lot to Lancaster. His faith plays an important part in his life and he's used it for support many times.

Since I've been here, I never really have gotten the time to play as much as I would have liked. After four years of the same thing, you either say 'I've had enough' and leave it alone or you deal with it.

Just four games into his junior season, one of life's rare magical moments thrust itself upon Lancaster, who was once again in the starting lineup.

North Carolina was coming to town and Doc sensed something in the air. He had classes that morning but was out by noon, plenty of time to think about the national television audience, playing in front of Dick Vitale, and going up against Dean Smith.

"I can remember that whole day," he said. "My mind was totally on the game. I just went back to my room and laid around. Ivisualized things I wanted to do."

What he didn't (and couldn't) foresee was the 15 points and 34 minutes playing time he got that night or the difference he would make in Alabama's 101-93 victory.

With the Tide leading late in the game, the Tarheels' Smith ordered a fouling spree and picked on one man: Bryant Lancaster. In fact, Smith's eyes had to light up at the sight of Lancaster's horrendous free throw numbers. Doc had made just seven of 31 foul shots his first two years. (If you are calculating, that is under 23 per cent, something less than what should be expected of a fan pulled out of the stands to shoot free throws.)

Perhaps surprising, Lancaster "felt good about it, because I knew I was going to be put in a tough situation," he said. "In order for us to win, I had to make them."

The hotly pursuing 'Heels fouled Lancaster and he sank a free throw. The next one missed and Tide fans held their breath.

"Then later in the game, they fouled me again and I went up and made two," he said. "My confidence got going then. I could tell they were trying to get me."

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hitting nine of 11 shots from the line; not bad for a guy who was shooting just over 22 percent from the stripe.

Lancaster's shots fell and so did Carolina. "It felt great, man," he said, "it felt great."

After that game, Lancaster's playing time–as has become routine–changed. James Sanders stepped forth and grabbed the two guard position and the Doc was on the sidelines again, where he stayed until early this season.

Sanderson decided he didn't want Tide scoring leader Robinson starting, preferring to let the young man get a feel for the game by coming off the bench. Enter, you guessed it, Lancaster.

He has become what Jefferson-Pilot broadcaster Larry Conley calls an "important role-player" as a senior. And, of course, a designated starter.

His numbers haven't improved that much (he's averaging 1.9 points and 1.4 rebounds with just a few games to play in the regular season) but his confidence has. Lancaster is even looking to shoot more, but not for the glory of scoring. He has a different reason.

Bryant Lancaster

The reason is Robert Lancaster, Bryant's oldest brother. Robert has a slightly withered left hand and couldn't play organized basketball, but he's the person who taught Bryant how to play the game. He was always there for his youngest brother.

A recent phone call from Bryant to his mother upset him deeply.

"She told me when I go out on the floor and I don't really look to score offensively, it really hurts him," said Lancaster. "That's because I have the ability to do things he would have liked to have done. So, because of his feelings, the past couple of games I've really been trying to look for my offense.

"I know my brother's watching. He's the one who taught me to play and he's the last one I want to let down."

So, Bryant Lancaster's final collegiate season continues. He will continue to start (and, perhaps, the second half as well) and he will continue to exit the floor quickly. He will continue to play a role.

And he will continue to be happy.

"When (Sanderson) gets upset," said Lancaster, "I just kind of look at him like 'Coach, it's going to be okay.'"

That's the way Doc operates.

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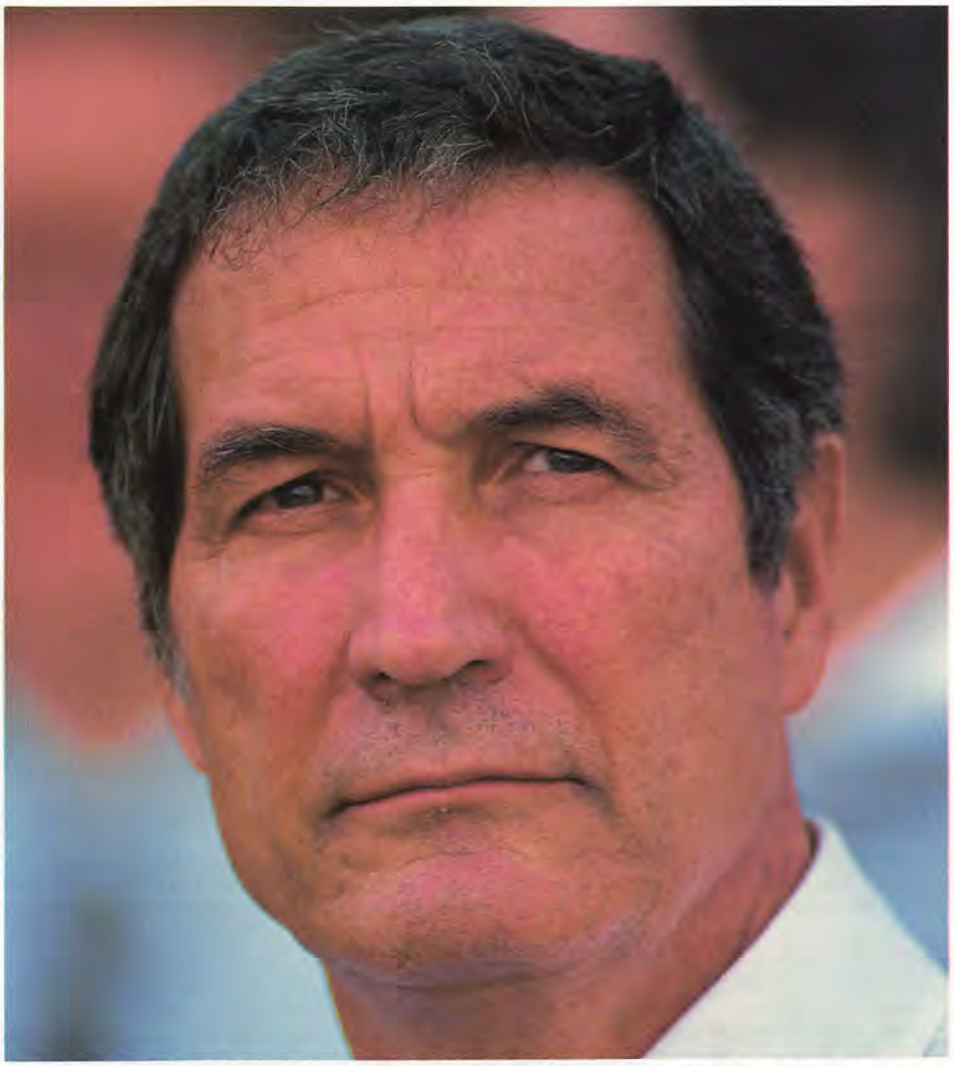
There'll Be Some Changes Made

by Kirk McNair

Crimson Tide football team has plenty of work ahead to get ready for next year



Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings has had a full year plus on this job now. He knows a lot more about his team as he goes into spring training. He knows he has players to find at critical positions and he believes that certain changes must be made in Bama's offense and defense.

Barry Fikes Photo

When is Alabama going to have a normal football spring training? For that matter, what is normal? Regardless, this won't be it.

Last spring the Crimson Tide football team was coming off a year in which Bama had won 10 games and gone to the Sugar Bowl as co-champions of the Southeastern Conference and in which there were a number of experienced players returning. In the long view of things, that would appear to be normal, because more often than any other SEC team Alabama has won a lot of games and been SEC champion. But it was anything but normal, because there had been a change in coaching staff.

Now Gene Stallings goes into his second year as Alabama's head football coach and his staff is intact. He knows the players and the players know the terminology. But now things are abnormal for other reasons. For one, Bama lost a number of players, and there is not a great deal of proven depth to move up. (It seems the Tide lost many more players on offense than on defense, but in truth Alabama lost five offensive starters, four defensive starters.) For another, Alabama is not coming off a good year. While the solid victory over Auburn and the continuing dominance of Tennessee were high marks in 1990, there were also low points, and the season finalé against Louisville in the Fiesta Bowl was not a game to build on. Finally, this spring will be different in part because of a rules change, in part because of the growing season.

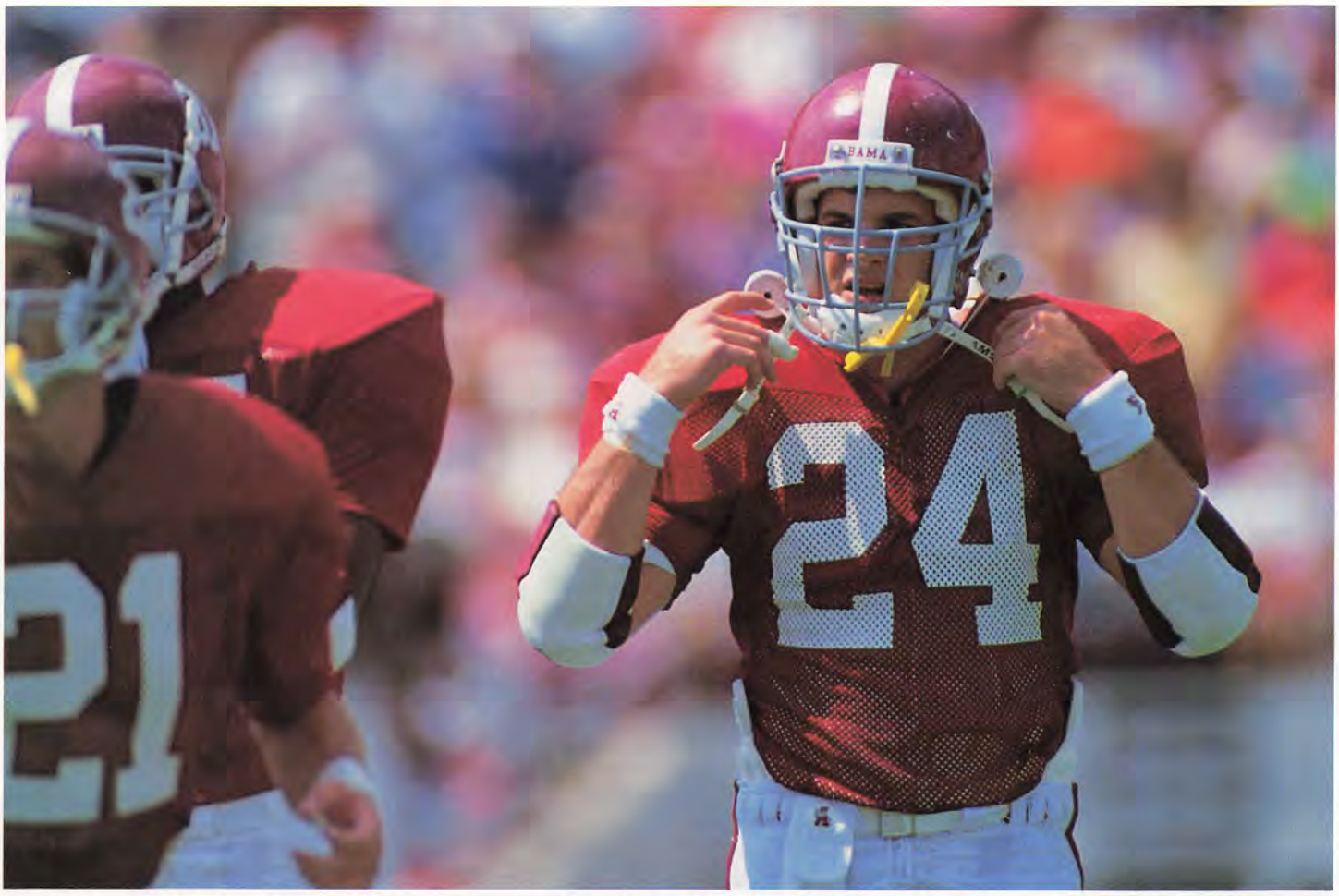
The rules change is that this spring a college football team is allowed only 15 days of practice, only 10 of those full contact days. Just a few years ago a team had 20 days of practice and all of it could be in full gear if that's what the coaching staff thought was needed.

The growing season affects practice positively, Bama fans negatively. Bryant-Denny Stadium is getting a new surface, natural grass replacing the AstroTurf the Crimson Tide has played its home games on for the past two decades. The old AstroTurf has been removed and Prescription Athletic Turf, the state-of-the-art grass field, is being installed. However, the grass won't be grown by April 13, when Bama's month of football practice ends, and so there will be no A-Day Game.

To its credit, Alabama has been honest about the reasons for not having a Red-White game. The lack of a field is only part of the reason. To have a spring game means that at least two, sometimes three, practices are "wasted" in the eyes of a football coach. There is little or no teaching of fundamentals after the teams are divided or in the game. For the most part, scholarship limitations mean it is very difficult for a team to provide personnel for two full teams. And most coaches don't want to play such a game. That is particularly true when a good spring practice is needed to develop a number of players or to develop players at critical positions. Both tasks face Alabama's staff this spring.

In place of the spring game, Alabama is expected to open up some of its practices to the public. Announcements concerning dates of those open practices and the procedure for viewing them will be made by the athletics department later.

Bama is tentatively scheduled to begin spring training Wednesday, March 13. The Tide will probably practice Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week (although classes, weather and injuries can cause changes to that schedule). On that schedule the Tide would have



Kevin Turner (24) returns for his third year as starting fullback for Alabama and he'll be protecting his job in spring training this year. However, Craig Sanderson (21) is one of a handful of Tiders who will have to wait until fall drills to begin practice. Sanderson, a starter at split end when Bama opened up last season, is recovering from knee surgery.

Wade Collins Photo

seven practices completed by March 23. Then the Bama players (along with all other students at The University) would have a week off for spring break. Practice would resume April 1 with the final eight practices ending April 13.

A couple of times in the recent past Alabama's spring practices have been interrupted by spring break, and the results have not always been satisfactory. Football players, like everyone else, have the best of intentions, but a week at the beach (for instance) is not conducive to staying in football condition.

On the plus side, any player suffering a relatively minor injury in the first two weeks of spring training has a better chance to recover in time for the final two weeks of drills.

Tide players have not been idle, of course. Since mid-January the players have been involved in the winter program, lifting weights and running five days a week, as well as stretching and jumping workouts, and doing speed work twice a week. Agility drills were added late in the program with a tapering off period scheduled as spring training approached. Bama players will also be given a program of weight lifting and running to take with them on their spring break.

A year ago Stallings was in an entirely different position than he is now. He arrived in January with acres of ground to make up in recruiting and a coaching staff to assemble. When he had time to look at the returning team, he saw few (if any) names that meant anything to him. This spring, he notes, "Things will be a whole lot easier." As an obvious example, the players already know the terminology. Last year they did not. "Even little things," Stallings pointed out. "Last year we had to spend time on things like how to huddle, break the huddle, go to the line of scrimmage and run a play."

Beyond that, "Being familiar with the players makes it much easier to get things done in practice."

Last year prior to the start of spring drills Stallings pointed out that the 1989 team had won 10 games, and he sure wasn't going to go out in the spring and beat those up with extraordinarily physical practices. As a result, spring training was less rigorous than might have been expected. Stallings still isn't going to beat his team up, but will spring training be more physical this year? "It will be different than last spring," Stallings said.

Among other things, spring training is a time of experimentation. Smaller squads reduce options from what they once were, but there is still a likelihood that Bama will take a look at some players in new positions. The move of one of several running backs to a wide receiver spot or a fullback to tight end or some other move is always a spring possibility.

The most casual observer of Alabama football knows the primary goals of this spring training period. At the top of that list is finding a quarterback (see Page 16). Gary Hollingsworth, the nation's biggest success story as a junior and adequate with a far less stellar supporting cast as a senior, is gone. His top backup man through most of 1990, Danny Woodson, has some strengths as an athlete, some liabilities as a quarterback. Jay Barker, among those who have not played, is generally regarded as likely to emerge from spring training as the top quarterback.

John Sullins (90) was a major factor in Alabama's outstanding defensive performance through 1990. Sullins, who will be a junior next season, replaced all-star Keith McCants at inside linebacker and went on to earn All-Southeastern Conference honors as he led Bama in tackles.

Barry Fikes Photo

However, as was seen last fall, a quarterback is frequently only as good or as bad as those around him. Key injuries at tailback and wide receiver spots, as well as a couple of losses in the offensive line, made moving the football difficult for Bama last year.

Although Stallings is vague as to specifics, he promises "a certain amount of the offense is going to be changing" this spring. It's no secret that Hollingsworth was not a mobile quarterback. Those who will contend at quarterback this spring, and again when preseason practice begins next August, are mobile. While one might presume a move away from the drop back passing game, only time will tell what offense emerges from Tide practices.

Last year Alabama's offense had almost all the arsenal of the multiple offense–I, split backs, one back, spread (shotgun). However, too often it was .22 caliber instead of 16-inch guns. Receivers didn't get open, or if they did they didn't make the catch; the inside running game sometimes got bottled up; the outside running game was too often east or west. One problem facing the Tide in the spring is that some who will be counted on in the fall won't take part in spring drills because of injuries they suffered last season. Among the potential big guns of 1991 are tailbacks Siran Stacy (who has announced he will return to Bama rather than go into the National Football League draft) and redshirted freshman Tarrant Lynch (now up to 215 pounds) and wide receivers Craig Sanderson and Prince Wimbley, the starters at the beginning of last year.

There are adequate, if not spectacular, tailbacks on hand. Diminutive Chris Anderson started the last half of the season and responded with some excellent games. Derrick Lassic has a couple of years experience, and probably was more impressive in 1989 than last season. Robert Jones has a special role, the short yardage blaster. It may be that the most impressive of the running backs last fall was a late-bloomer. Junior Sewell is listed as a fullback, but he was most impressive in the one-back offense, particularly in a critical fourth quarter drive against Auburn.

Fullback is also in good, experienced hands, even if Sewell is not included. For the past two years the starter has been Kevin Turner and the backup man has been Martin Houston. Both return.

At the wide receiver spots the battles are not likely to be decided this spring, in part because of the absences of Sanderson and Wimbley and in part because of a quartet of exceptionally talented wide receivers coming in as freshmen next fall. Nevertheless, there are some men to watch at flanker and split end in the spring. Bama finished last season with converted tight end Lamonde Russell, who has completed his eligibility, at split end and Donnie Finkley, an upcoming junior, at flanker. Also returning are the top backups from the end of the season, walkon Dabo Swinney and Kevin Lee at split end, Lorenzo Cole at flanker. Two other walkons to watch are Roman Colburn and David Bonamy, both of whom did well last fall before being sidelined by injuries. (Wide receivers are second only to kickers in trying out for football teams.) However, it is two redshirted freshmen–Rick Brown and Rock Woody–who are likely to draw the most attention as wide receivers this spring.

Alabama recruiting may also have affect-

ed tight end, but in the spring the battle will be among two returning players from last fall and one redshirted freshman. Steve Busky took over as the starter through most of 1990 when Russell moved to split end. He was backed by Derrick Warren, who has never performed to the potential most think he has. Walkon Monroe Harrison has also seen spot duty at tight end. Many believe the leader after spring drills will be redshirted freshman Darrell Miller.

The difference between good offensive teams and great offensive teams is frequently the group of most overlooked football players, offensive linemen. But runners can't run and passers can't find receivers if the up-front men don't block. Stallings has been adamant in his quest to have men who will "dominate" the line of scrimmage. Alabama's biggest task this spring and next fall–the search for quarterback notwithstanding–may be to find offensive linemen.

Gone are All-Southeastern Conference performers Terrill Chatman at tackle and Roger Shultz at center, as well as Trent Patterson at right guard. William Barger returns at left guard, but he was a late-season fill-in for the injured Chris Robinette, who is also gone. When one considers Alabama being only adequate in the offensive line last year, the problem this spring is apparent.

Matt Hammond returns at left tackle, but Hammond is going to have to get bigger and stronger to be an effective tackle. Oft-injured Scott Bolt ended the season at the number two left tackle, but his knee problems have ended his career a year prematurely. Two other tackle candidates are Charlie Dare, who has been most newsworthy for things other than football performance, and Roosevelt Patterson, who was redshirted last year after having missed all of 1989 as an academic casualty. At right tackle, Johnny Howard was Chatman's backup last year.

The top guards going into spring are expected to be Barger (who was the top backup at right guard as well as playing on the left side) and George Wilson, who has made a courageous comeback from a serious foot injury and who saw playing time at left guard. There has also been some talk of Wilson as a center. Another scholarshipped offensive guard is Tim Matheny.

In 1978 Alabama lost a football game to Southern Cal. However, later that season Southern Cal was upset, one of the keys to Bama being able to win the national championship. USC partisans remember that loss being the result of injuries to the Trojans' top three centers. The role of the center may be taken for granted by fans, but it is a critical skill. Tobie Sheils is the only Alabama center with any experience, and he doesn't have much. Redshirted freshman Chad Gladden saw some work at center in fall drills.

It doesn't take long to figure out that Alabama is woefully short on offensive linemen.

It is human nature for football fans to be more interested in offensive personnel than defensive personnel, but it is the reality of football that defense is frequently more important than offense to success. Stallings has also indicated some changes in Bama's defensive philosophy this year, although the overall success of the Tide defense in 1990 suggests changes might be more subdued than those coming on offense.

There are not many losses on the defensive side. However, two of them are the heart of the Crimson Tide stop corps, at both defensive ends. Byron Holdbrooks at right end and George Thornton at left were the two-thirds of a front wall that was able to provide both a good defense against the run and a pass rush that was effective without benefit of blitz.

"We've got Eric Curry back, who played at right end, and we've got Jeremy Nunley, who played some at left end," Stallings said. He also said that junior college transfer John Copeland would compete at left end. Ervin Collier had a few snaps of playing time and Jason Milner comes up from the redshirted freshman ranks at defensive end. Roderick Bradford, a former linebacker, will be tried as an end.

Robert Stewart had an all-star year at nose tackle and he returns for his senior season almost certain to play the same position two years in a row for the first time in his career. He's a former starter at inside linebacker (1987) and fullback (1988) and was held out in 1989. He is backed by James Gregory, who showed much improvement last year as a true freshman.

Stallings thinks a key goal of spring training is to find a weak safety. Efrum Thomas moved from cornerback to weak safety (sometimes called free safety or just safety, to distinguish it from strong safety) last fall, his second and last season at Alabama. He replaced Charles Gardner, an upcoming senior who was a starter at safety both as a freshman and sophomore. Among other candidates, Brian Stutson has seen some action in the secondary in Bama's various special defenses, and Derrick Nesbitt, a redshirted freshman, came to Bama with glowing credentials.

The rest of Bama's secondary returns. Stacy Harrison is back at strong safety, Mark McMillian at right cornerback and George Teague at left cornerback. Also returning are some impressive backup performers, including Antonio Langham and Lemanski Hall. Other secondary candidates with some experience include Darren Greenwood, Willis Bevelle, Clyde Goode, Eric Washington and Alvin Hope.

One other departing starter from last year's defense is outside linebacker Spencer Hammond. Hammond was injured in practice for the Fiesta Bowl and his place in that game was taken by Antonio London, an upcoming junior who should probably be considered the leading candidate for that job. On the other side, Steve Webb and his top backup man, Byron Sneed, return. There are a number of other outside linebacker candidates in camp, including slightly experienced Bragg Rockwell and Chris Cochran and DeLan Trimble and Jay Brannen, redshirt freshmen.

Both inside linebackers return. John Sullins was a major factor in Bama's success last year as he replaced Keith McCants, who went pro early, while Derrick Oden should be a great one at the other inside spot. Oden must curb some of his extracurricular activities. There is also some experience behind the starters–Rodney Helton, Victor Lockett, Keith Neighbors and John Clay. Redshirted freshmen are Michael Rogers and Mario Morris

It is situation normal in this type article to reserve last place for a discussion of the kicking game. Last year Bama had highs and lows in kicking, the ultimate high Philip Doyle's dramatic last-play, game-winning field goal against Tennessee, the lows the collection of errors that were instrumental in Bama losing its first three games of 1990.

This spring, Stallings said, Alabama "will spend a lot more time on the kicking game than we did last year." The kicking game involves much more than just kicking the football. There is snapping and coverage and returns and protection (and Stallings was never comfortable with protection on Alabama punts and placekicks last fall). However, this spring Stallings is primarily concerned with finding the men who will actually kick the football. It is difficult to predict the outcome of this search, in part because Alabama (as most major college football teams) attracts a large number of walkon kickers.

"The field goal kicking job is wide open," Stallings said of the search for a replacement for Doyle. Among the leading candidates will be Hamp Greene, an upcoming junior who sat out last year after transferring from North Carolina State, and Jim Tuley, an upcoming sophomore who has been on the squad for two years.

Although the punters from last year return, that job, too, is up for grabs. Stan Moss started last season as the punter, but mistakes forced a change and Tank Williamson answered the call. Tide punting improved through the year, but was never what Stallings wanted it to be. Among those who will challenge Williamson and Moss this spring is J. J. Adams, a barefooted punter who was redshirted as a freshman last fall. "J. J. didn't punt in games, but he kicked the ball well in practice," Stallings said.

Many others in the kicking game return, including snapper Matthew Pine (who is also a good punter) and holder Jeff Wall.

1991 Alabama Spring Football Roster

Name, Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
Chuck Aaron, dl	Fr.	6-3	260	RS	Centerville, Miss.
J. J. Adams, p	Fr.	6-1	165	RS	Katy, Texas
Chris Anderson, tb	So.	5-9	175	1L	Huntsville
William Barger, og	So.	6-3	270	1L	Birmingham
Jay Barker, qb	Fr.	6-3	210	RS	Trussville
Willis Bevelle, s	Jr.	6-1	180	2L	Bessemer
David Bonamy, wr	Jr.	5-10	170	Sq	Ormond Bch, Fla.
Roderick Bradford, de	So.	6-5	235	Sq	Mobile
Jay Brannen, olb	Fr.	6-2	210	RS	Gainesville, Fla.
Rick Brown, wr	Fr.	6-0	175	RS	Fort Worth, Texas
Steve Busky, te	Jr.	6-5	228	1L	Suitland, Md.
Mike Campbell, wr	Jr.	6-0	185	1L	Pinson
Steve Christopher, qb	So.	6-0	195	HS	Anniston
John Clay, ilb	So.	6-1	226	1L	Nashville, Tenn.
Chris Cochran, olb	Jr.	6-3	235	2L	Germantown, Tenn.
Roman Colburn, wr	Fr.	6-0	175	RS	Fort Payne
Lorenzo Cole, wr	So.	5-10	175	1L	Florence
Ervin Collier, de	So.	6-3	257	Sq	Jacksonville, Fla.
Mickey Conn, cb	Fr.	5-10	175	RS	Snellville, Ga.
John Copeland, de	Jr.	6-4	280	JC	Fairfax
Eric Curry, de	Jr.	6-6	265	1L	Thomasville, Ga.
Terrell Daniel, p	So.	6-1	215	Sq	Fairfax
Charlie Dare, ot	Sr.	6-5	290	2L	Enterprise
Jason Darnall, dl	So.	5-11	226	Sq	Northbrook, Ill.
Danny Davis, qb	Fr.	6-1	205	RS	Memphis
Dan Dover, c	Fr.	6-2	257	RS	Birmingham
Scott Etter, qb	Jr.	6-0	180	Sq	Lexington, Ky.
Jody Evans, wr	Jr.	5-11	165	Sq	Crestview, Fla.
Donnie Finkley, flk	Jr.	5-10	175	2L	Fairhope
Napoleon Folks, ot	So.	6-3	288	HS	Montgomery
Jeff Foshee, lb	Fr.	5-9	192	RS	Millbrook
Stephen Frazer, ol	So.	6-2	265	Sq	Selma
Charles Gardner, s	Sr.	6-1	203	3L	Carson, Calif.
James Giangrosso, de	Sr.	6-1	240	Sq	Chalmette
Chad Gladden, c	Fr.	6-3	254	RS	Centre
Clyde Goode, cb	Sr.	5-9	175	1L	Town Creek
Jason Gordon, og	Fr.	6-5	257	RS	Birmingham
Hamp Greene, pk	Jr.	5-10	185	Sq	Montgomery
Darren Greenwood, cb	Jr.	5-11	180	1L	Lanett
James Gregory, nt	So.	6-4	295	1L	St. Louis, Mo.
David Greico, rb	So.	5-10	177	Sq	Brownville, N.Y.
Doug Gwin, rb	So.	6-2	229	Sq	Middleton, R.I.
Lemanski Hall, ss	So.	6-0	200	1L	Fairfax
Matt Hammond, ot	So.	6-3	260	1L	Fort Payne
Craig Harris, fb	Jr.	5-11	205	2L	Panama City, Fla.
Monroe Harrison, te	Sr.	6-2	240	1L	Biloxi, Miss.
Stacy Harrison, ss	Sr.	6-0	185	3L	Atlanta
Rodney Helton, ilb	Jr.	6-1	220	1L	Knoxville, Tenn.
Alvin Hope, cb	Jr.	5-9	175	1L	Mobile
Johnny Howard, ot	Jr.	6-3	270	2L	Bessemer
Martin Houston, fb	Jr.	5-10	235	2L	Centre
John Hutt, lb	So.	6-0	205	Sq	Tuscaloosa
Jason Jack, qb	Fr.	6-1	180	RS	Oxford
Robert Jones, tb	Sr.	5-9	200	2L	Birmingham
Alex Jordon, db	So.	6-1	194	Sq	Hueytown
Antonio Langham, cb	So.	6-1	166	1L	Town Creek
Derrick Lassic, tb	Jr.	5-10	195	2L	Haverstraw, N.Y.
Kirk Lawson, de	Fr.	6-4	285	RS	Florence
Kevin Lee, wr	So.	6-0	175	1L	Mobile
Damon Lewis, c	Fr.	6-3	235	RS	Conway, Ark.
Victor Lockett, ilb	So.	5-11	228	1L	Mobile
Antonio London, olb	Jr.	6-2	220	2L	Tullahoma, Tenn.
Jackson Lowery, db	Fr.	6-1	188	RS	Huntsville
Tarrant Lynch, tb	Fr.	6-1	215	RS	Town Creek
Doug Marshall, lb	Sr.	5-11	220	Sq	Burke, Va.
Jeff Marshall, tb	Jr.	5-9	185	1L	Winfield
Tim Matheny, og	Sr.	6-3	270	Sq	Semmes
Mark McMillian, cb	Sr.	5-8	160	1L	Los Angeles
Darrell Miller, te	Fr.	6-4	235	RS	Nashville, Tenn.
Jerald Mills, te	Sr.	6-3	210	Sq	
Jason Milner, de	Fr.	6-5	260	RS	Broken Arrow, Okla.
Mario Morris, ilb	Fr.	6-2	220	RS	Decatur
Stan Moss, p	Jr.	6-0	200	1L	Brent
Keith Neighbors, ilb	Jr.	6-1	215	1L	Huntsville
Derrick Nesbitt, s	Fr.	6-2	186	RS	Decatur, Ga.
Jeremy Nunley, de	So.	6-5	255	1L	Winchester, Tenn.
Derrick Oden, ilb	Jr.	5-11	225	2L	Tuscaloosa
Roosevelt Patterson, ot	So.	6-3	290	Sq	Mobile
Charles Payne, lb	Jr.	6-0	215	Sq	Knoxville, Tenn.
John Phillips, nt	Jr.	5-11	265	Sq	Atlanta
Matthew Pine, snapper	So.	6-2	218	1L	Gadsden
Myron Pope, te	So.	6-2	210	Sq	Sweetwater
David Potter, te	So.	6-4	195	Sq	Texarkana, Ark.
Bart Pritchett, nt	So.	6-1	260	Sq	Mobile
Dale Robinson, lb	Sr.	6-1	210	Sq	Florence
Bragg Rockwell, olb	Jr.	6-0	205	2L	Daphne
Matt Rodgers, p	So.	6-3	170	Sq	New Brockton
Michael Rogers, ilb	Fr.	6-1	215	RS	Luverne
Paul Ryan, lb	So.	6-3	225	Sq	West Palm Bch, Fla.
Shane Sanders, fb	So.	6-0	220	Sq	Harpersville
Craig Sanderson, se	Sr.	5-11	175	3L	Hamilton
Junior Sewell, fb	Jr.	5-11	225	1L	Abbeville
Toby Sheils, c	So.	6-2	250	1L	Daphne
Marty Smith, db	So.	5-10	178	Sq	
Byron Sneed, olb	Sr.	6-3	244	3L	Alexandria, Va.
Irving Spikes, tb	Jr.	5-10	205	Sq	Ocean Spgs, Miss.
George Stacey, dl	So.	6-1	247	Sq	Birmingham
Siran Stacy, tb	Sr.	6-0	190	1L	Geneva
Robert Stewart, nt	Sr.	6-0	270	3L	Ashford
Brian Stutson, s	Sr.	5-11	205	2L	Birmingham
John Sullins, ilb	Sr.	6-1	235	3L	Oxford, Miss.
Dabo Swinney, wr	Sr.	6-0	180	1L	Pelham
George Teague, cb	Jr.	6-0	187	2L	Montgomery
Thomas Tillery, lb	So.	5-10	205	Sq	Leesburg
John Tomlinson, qb	So.	6-1	205	Sq	Monroeville
DeLan Trimble, olb	Fr.	6-3	230	RS	Cullman
Pat Tucker, rb	Jr.	5-10	215	Sq	
James Tuley, pk	So.	5-10	200	Sq	Montgomery
Kevin Turner, fb	Sr.	6-0	220	3L	Prattville
Thad Turnipseed, ilb	Fr.	6-0	194	RS	Montgomery
Steve Versprille, lb	Jr.	5-10	200	Sq	Norfolk, Va.
Jeff Wall, holder	Jr.	5-8	165	2L	Birmingham
Derrick Warren, te	Jr.	6-5	235	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
Eric Washington, ss	Jr.	6-1	200	1L	Miami
Jared Watson, snapper	So.	6-2	225	Sq	Vandiver
Steve Webb, olb	Sr.	6-3	250	3L	Holt
Dan Webster, lb	Jr.	6-0	200	Sq	Bessemer
Matt Wethington, pk	So.	5-11	155	Sq	Titusville, Fla.
Tab Whisenhunt, ilb	So.	6-2	220	Sq	Bessemer
Brent White, qb	Jr.	6-3	205	Sq	Colorado Spgs, Colo.
Tank Williamson, p	Sr.	5-11	205	1L	Orrville
George Wilson, og	Jr.	6-2	255	1L	Bessemer
Prince Wimbley, flk	Jr.	5-10	174	3L	Miami
Danny Woodson, qb	Sr.	6-3	220	1L	Mobile
Rock Woody, wr	Fr.	6-0	170	RS	Springville
Mike Wortham, og	Fr.	5-10	255	RS	Hermitage, Tenn.
Stan Young, lb	Sr.	6-0	219	Sq	Alexander City

Players whose names are in italics will not participate in spring

Jay Barker:

Freshman Has Edge At Quarterback

by Kirk McNair

Tide putting high hopes on redshirt freshman to replace Hollingsworth

One area in which Alabama football coaches, followers and even players are most interested as spring training approaches is the quarterback position. That is not a news bulletin. Quarterback is the most important position on the field and Alabama's 1990 quarterback–Gary Hollingsworth–has completed his eligibility.

Two other quarterbacks saw limited action for Bama last year, and both return in 1991. Yet, as spring training approaches, almost all outside observers and many of the Crimson Tide players believe a redshirted freshman will come out of spring training as Alabama's quarterback. And one of the players who seems to believe that is Jay Barker, redshirted freshman quarterback.

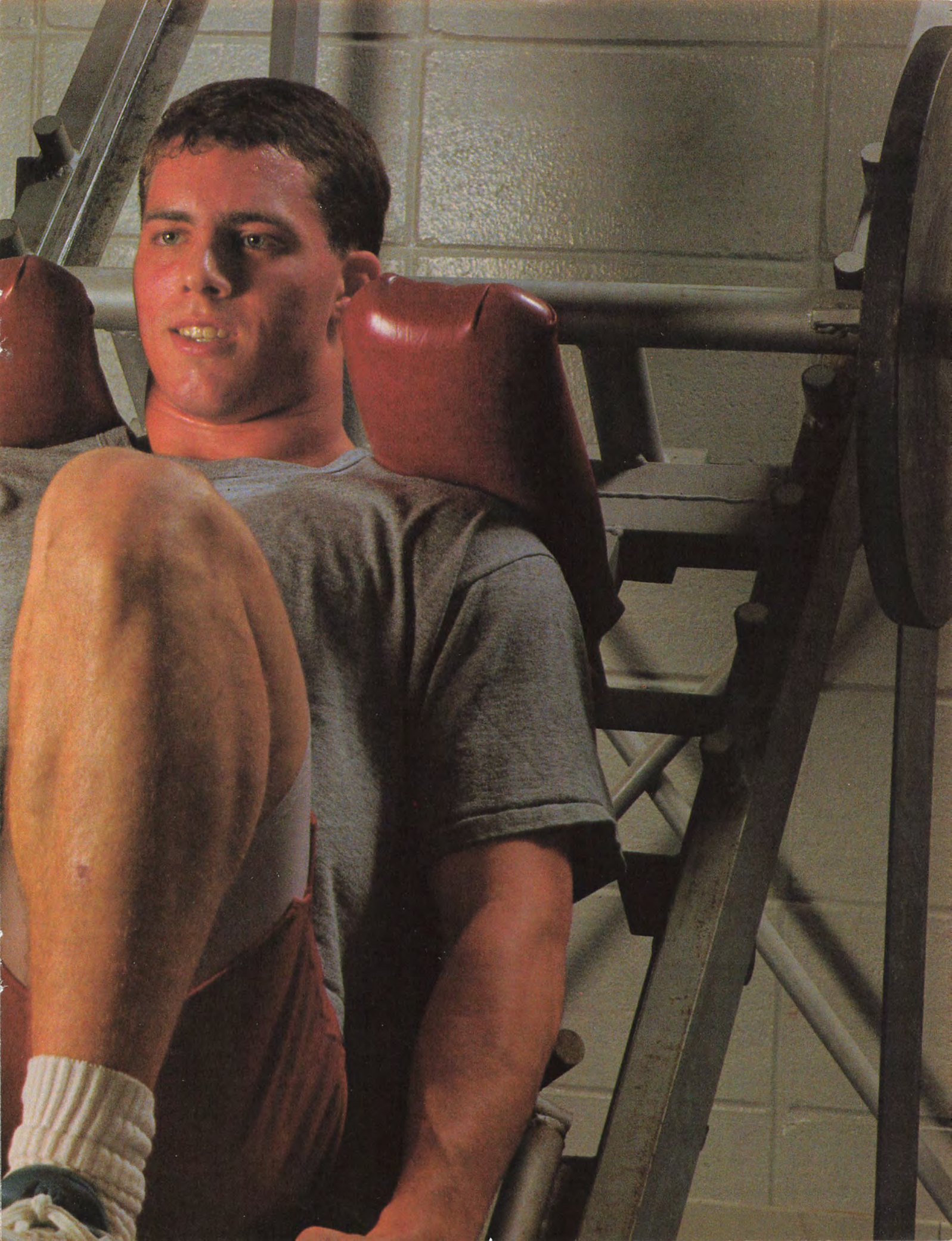
Barker, a 6-3, 210-pounder, doesn't come right out and say he expects to be the quarterback for Alabama next season (and in the future), but he gives every indication of believing that. "One of the main things I have to do is gain the respect of the other players," Barker said. "I have to let them know that I want to be in charge of the team. I plan to take that leadership role."

There are other things he has to do, he said. "I'm trying to work as hard as I can (in the off season program) to be in the best condition possible. I've got to learn the system and I've got to show I can execute it.

"But most of all, a quarterback wants to be a leader and has to be a leader."

An irony of Barker becoming Alabama's on-the-field leader is that until the just-

Jay Barker, who hopes to earn the job as Alabama's quarterback when spring training gets under way, spends much of his off season time in the weight room. He attributes the off season program with making him stronger and faster.
Barry Fikes Photo



signed freshmen arrive on campus next summer, Barker is the youngest scholarshipped Crimson Tide player. He was 17 when he signed with Alabama and will turn 19 on July 20, just days before players begin reporting for practice for the 1991 season.

Barker admits that he is seeing evidence of new acceptance around Bryant Hall and in the weight room. "The guys are telling me what a great opportunity I have, things like that," he said. "And I notice that guys I really didn't know that well, older guys like Craig Sanderson, are going out of their way to talk to me.

"And the receivers all want to throw with me," he said. "Of course, that helps them, too.

"Passing is timing. The thing so many people don't realize is how much the loss of our receivers hurt Gary (Hollingsworth) last season. He didn't just lose good pass catchers. He lost the timing he and the receivers had developed."

To that end, Barker has been throwing three or four days a week with a number of receivers, including Sanderson, redshirted freshmen Rick Brown and Rock Woody, and an impressive walkon, Roman Colburn. "We're all just trying to get our timing," Barker said. "I try to work with all the receivers.

"I'm trying to get a strong supporting cast. It doesn't matter how good the quarterback is if he doesn't have good players around him." That's one thing Barker likes about Alabama's 1991 football chances. "We'll be getting some people back that we didn't have last year," he said.

Another thing he likes is the attitude of the team. "We got a real good taste in our mouth when we beat Auburn," he said. "Now we want to get things back where we dominate on a national level. I think that's why everyone is so enthusiastic about working out in the off season program and about getting spring training started. You hear a lot of talk about the national championship. That means a lot."

Barker doesn't expect the job to be handed to him this spring. "I'm going after it as hard as I can," he said, "but I'm going against the best athlete I've ever been around–Danny Woodson. But I'm going to work as hard as I can."

One other thing Barker has done in the off season is have conferences with both Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings and Crimson Tide Quarterback Coach Mal Moore to discuss what is expected of him this spring and in the future.

If Barker can win the quarterback position, it won't be the first fast move he has made. A few years ago no one would have guessed he might be a college football player, except perhaps as a kicker. In the ninth grade he was 5-4. The only thing about him college football sized were his feet. He wore a 12 shoe. "The doctors examined me and said I would grow to about 6-4, but it was hard to believe then," Barker said. "But in four years I grew nearly a foot."

Another thing Barker has done is take care of his classroom work. It's no secret that distinguishes him from his main competitor for the quarterback job. Barker is in pre-med and hopes one day to practice sports medicine.

It is the nature of college football that practice time for quarterbacks is reserved almost exclusively to the starter and one backup man. There just aren't enough players on a football team to provide all the guards and tackles needed to give all of the quarterbacks work. So last fall Barker was primarily an observer. After the varsity reported in August, three days after the new players, Barker worked a few practices with the scout team, but then was called to the first team huddle. Not to take snaps, but to stand with Coach Moore and watch the work of Gary Hollingsworth.

"I'd go through the passing drills before practice, but after that it was watching and learning," Barker said. "Jason (Jason Jack, another redshirt freshman quarterback) and later Danny (walkon redshirt freshman quarterback Danny Davis) were the ones they had watching. Coach Moore wanted us to watch Gary (Hollingsworth), get a feel for the play, try to understand about making decisions. I'm sure I got more out of that than I would have being over there with the scout team getting beaten up."

Many, many freshmen football players are obsessed by having immediate playing time. However, Barker said "The redshirt year did me a lot of good. I think I'm a lot more mature now."

There is more than an element of luck that Jay Barker is even on Alabama's football team. The Bill Curry staff was not interested in Barker when he was quarterbacking Coach Jack Wood's Hewitt-Trussville football team in 1989. Current myth has it that only Auburn's quarterback coach, Pat Sullivan, knew about Barker. It's true Sullivan was actively recruiting Barker for Auburn. "He saw me when we played Mountain Brook because he was there to see his son play," Barker said of Sullivan. "And I had a real good game. Coach Sullivan asked my coach who I was and asked for some film on me and Auburn recruited me."

However, the first college coach to know about Barker was Bobby Bowden of Florida State. Barker had gone to Terry Bowden's football camp at Samford University. Terry's dad, Bobby, worked with the quarterbacks in that camp and Barker was the standout. So FSU was the first school to make contact with Barker and he had a scholarship offer from the Seminoles.

Meanwhile, the national and regional recruiting experts were as much in the dark about Barker as was the previous Alabama staff. Barker thinks he knows the reason for that. "First of all, my senior year was the only year I played quarterback. Also, we started out basically a running team, but we were having some problems and so Coach Wood had to open up the offense," he said. "It just so happened that the change in our offense, which gave me a chance to show what I could do (as a passer), coincided with the game against Mountain Brook when Coach Sullivan was there."

Fortunately, when Gene Stallings took over as Alabama's head football coach, it didn't take him long to realize Alabama had to recruit some quarterbacks. "About two weeks before signing date Coach (Mal) Moore called and asked for a chance," Barker said. "He said he didn't want me judging Alabama by the previous coaching staff." Fortunately for Bama, Barker was a lifelong Alabama fan and he was more than happy to give the Crimson Tide an opportunity to recruit him. Barker has the same story many previous Alabama players have had: Hewitt-Trussville's football players sold soft drinks at Alabama games in Birmingham's Legion Field. "About the middle of the third quarter we were usually out of Coke, so I'd sit down in the stands and watch the rest of the game," Barker said. Even before that, when he was a running back in midget league football, he wore number 42, Major Ogilvie's number. Barker was also a big fan of former tight end Howard Cross, who once spoke at Barker's church.

And so, when Alabama offered, Barker was happy to accept.

As a prep senior Barker passed for 1,320 yards, connecting on 82 of 142 attempts for 12 touchdowns out of the veer attack. The veer is an option game and Barker can run the football. "I ran it quite a bit," he said. Sometimes his runs were called, sometimes the result of reading the defense. One can't help but think about a quarterback with the ability to run combined with Moore as the position coach. Moore tutored Alabama's quarterbacks when the Tide was nationally dominant with its wishbone offense and the Alabama wishbone was different than almost all others in that the Bama quarterback read the defense, making decisions on who would carry the football based on the reaction of the defense.

That is not to suggest Alabama will switch to the wishbone offense, which assuredly will not happen. However, the combination of a mobile quarterback and Moore's expertise does open up other offensive possibilities.

Barker was an all-around athlete in high school, starring in basketball and baseball as well as football. His favorite: "Whichever was in season," he said. Barker has a little baseball blood in him. His uncle, Lloyd Merritt, was a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals.

He still plays basketball in the off season. "Last fall I got up to about 216, but after

the season I started playing basketball and lost back down to 205," he said. That's still about 15 pounds above the 190 he weighed when he reported to Bama last summer. He said he will report this August at about 210 and hopes to play at about 215.

The additional weight is muscle. "I enjoy working out," he said. "Coach Caruthers (Alabama Strength Coach LeBaron Caruthers) does a good job. I can't get over how much quicker and stronger I've gotten since I've been here." That's not to say that Barker is a Robert Stewart (who routinely bench presses 500 pounds) or a 4.3 sprinter like wide receiver like Kevin Lee. But he has increased his bench press strength from 220 to 295 and his 4.6 speed in the 40 will keep him out of the arms of most defensive linemen and linebackers.

Scott Etter, a walkon who will be a junior next year, is one of a handful of candidates for the job of quarterback during spring practice. Barry Fikes Photo

And the other candidates at quarterback are. .

While Jay Barker may emerge from spring training as the number one quarterback, it is not written in stone that he will. Indeed, there has been no announcement as to who will be number one going into spring training.

The two and three quarterbacks from last year are returning. They are upcoming senior Danny Woodson, whose undeniable athletic abilities have so far resisted the harness of consistency, and junior Scott Etter, a walkon. Neither had much of a chance last year. Woodson was used primarily in desperation situations primarily because of his ability to take a broken play and turn it into a big play. Unfortunately, when Woodson was in at quarterback almost every play was a broken play. A team will get some big plays out of those, but plays that are called correctly and run correctly are more likely to produce the yardage and points needed to win football games. Etter has some physical limitations, but he follows instructions. It may be that one of the biggest plays in last year's victory over Auburn came after Hollingsworth was injured. Etter went in, ran one play (a quarterback run), and Bama was able to safely get rid of the football without giving up good field position.

There is one other scholarshipped quarterback in camp. Jason Jack, like Barker, was redshirted last year as a freshman. He is smaller and does not have quite the arm that Barker does, but he does have good mobility. Another redshirted freshman, walkon Danny Davis, showed a great deal of promise last fall. He, too, has good mobility and could make a move. Brent White, a transfer from Colorado State, has been around for a couple of years. He is a drop back passer who suffered a seriously injured shoulder last fall and is questionable for the spring. There are some others who have been on the Alabama practice field since last fall. John Tomlinson of Monroeville, the brother-in-law of Curley Hallman, former head coach at Southern Miss and now at LSU, transferred from West Georgia. Another walkon is Joe Gardner, but he is far down the list of candidates going into spring training.

Next fall at least two others are expected to battle those who come out of spring training in contention for playing time at quarterback. Steve Christopher set numerous records with the run-and-shoot offense at Anniston. However, he was not academically eligible to participate in football this year. However, he is in school and progressing well at Alabama and is expected to be in the quarterback race in the fall.

Alabama uses current players in its recruiting efforts to add new players. This winter Jay Barker was utilized in the recruitment of one player: Brian Burgdorf of Cedartown, Georgia. An irony is that Burgdorf is expected to compete for the quarterback job against Barker this fall. That didn't bother Barker. "You've got to get at least one quarterback with every recruiting class in case something happens," he said.

-Kirk McNair

Mickey Kerns:

Born To Play Centerfield

by Donald F. Staffo

Alabama junior may have a Major decision to make following this season

David Magadan was playing baseball for The University of Alabama a few years ago. Now he is a millionaire first baseman for the New York Mets. Recently Magadan returned to Tuscaloosa, spending time at a mall signing autographs at five bucks a signature.

Could Mickey Kerns one day be in a similar situation? After all, Bama Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger said that Kerns "does everything well. He hits well, runs well, throws well, and hits with power. He's on the verge of greatness.

"The only area Mickey has to work on at the NCAA level is consistent contact (of bat on ball). He's one of those young prospects who has three things in particular that can't be taught–arm strength, great speed (6.6 60) and power at the plate."

Last summer those assets helped Kerns come within an eyelash of winning the triple crown in the prestigious Shenandoah Valley (amateur baseball) League. He led the league in home runs (21) and runs batted in (59) and was eighth in batting (.351). Kerns also finished first in the league in on-base percentage (.463) and stolen bases (23 in 24 attempts).

Those statistics didn't go unnoticed by the Major League scouts. Some of them–Kansas City, Los Angeles and Toronto to name three–have been following the 6-1, 185-pound junior since his Hancock High School days when he was first team all-state and Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year in baseball. As a prep senior he batted .469 with three home runs and 20 RBIs and he was a three-year starter and all-area performer as a guard on the basketball team as well (averaging 20.2 points per game as a senior). Following his final season of high school baseball he was drafted by the Kansas City Royals, but he turned down that Round 41 selection to accept a baseball scholarship to Alabama.

Not that he didn't have second thoughts. "The first offer Kansas City made I didn't bite," Kerns said. "But that summer I made the Junior Olympic Team and they upped their offer. The second offer was tempting. It was a big decision between playing minor league baseball or going to college."

Kerns, of course, opted for the scholarship over the signing bonus and he picked the Crimson Tide over Virginia Tech, Maryland, North Carolina State and West Virginia. He said the combination of a warm climate, a good baseball program and a good conference were the reasons he picked Bama.

Though Kerns showed some of his potential in what is considered the best summer league in the country, he remains disappointed in his Bama performance to date. "I wasn't consistent last year," Kerns said. "I was up and down and made 31 errors." However, he also hit a respectable .286 with 22 runs batted in and stole 14 bases. He had only one home run last year.

Shollenberger agrees. "Mickey really hasn't done the things for us that he did last summer. Mickey saw every bit as good pitching in the Shenandoah Valley League as he sees in the Southeastern Conference, though maybe not on a day-in and day-out basis. So he's certainly capable of doing that here.

"Based on what he did last summer, Mickey is on the verge of putting up big numbers here."

Unlike the professional people, Shollenberger has an interest in Kerns that extends beyond the diamond. "I'm a college coach and I'm interested in Mickey and his production and development while he's here–and not just as it relates to baseball, but also in academics and in his maturing process. That's my job.

"The pro scouts look more for potential, at what a player could be five years down the road. I'm interested in what he does now; they're interested in what he might do in the future."

Kerns admits that so far he has not produced to his own satisfaction, pointing to his four career home runs in two seasons at the Capstone, and his sub-.300 batting average and .890 fielding percentage last season. He realizes he needs to improve on those numbers to get the kind of contract offer he would accept.

Should Kerns have a good season, Shollenberger expects, "like many that have gone before him, we'll probably lose him before his senior year. I'm sure he realizes what a good year could mean to him."

Kerns says he has pondered the possibility of foregoing his senior year and entering the Major League draft.

"Yes, I've thought about it," he said. "But it's going to take a pretty good year. I want the chance to play pro ball and, hopefully, I'll get that chance. But if the situation is not right, I'm not going to make a dumb move and sign if it's not in my best interest, or the team's best interest. If I think I can help the team, I'll stay."

Kerns said he wants to play on a Tide team that qualifies for the NCAA Tournament before he leaves.

"I want to see what that feels like," he said. "I think we can do that this year. I have a good feeling about this team. There just seems to be something there that was missing my first two years and, hopefully, that will make the difference."

One difference in the Tide this season is that Kerns will play centerfield instead of shortstop.

"I've played shortstop all my life, so at first it was hard to accept the change," Kerns admitted. "But now that I've been out there, I really enjoy it. I look forward to going to the outfield every day and trying to get better. I found a position that fits me as well as I fit it, so maybe this is a blessing

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in disguise."

Perhaps it's coincidence, but Kerns said that a Toronto Blue Jays scout had earlier told him that he projected him as a centerfielder before Kerns had ever played the position. And Shollenberger came up with the same thought.

"Centerfield was designed for his skills," the Crimson Tide head coach said. "He's never played centerfield in an SEC game and he's already outstanding. Not good. Outstanding."

Shollenberger said, "I'm sure he realizes this is a very important year for him and that things could be very worthwhile. He's working harder than I've ever seen him work."

But Kerns, a physical education major who one day wants to coach, is not going to automatically jump at a pro offer. He knows first-hand that not everyone going to the minor leagues gets a ticket to the bigs. And he also knows that the player who leaves college early with full intentions of returning to finish the degree later may not get back to school. "My father (Danny, who played a summer of amateur ball with former Major League star Reggie Jackson) left the University of Maryland after his sophomore year to sign with the Baltimore Orioles," Kerns said. "He didn't make it to the Major League and he never went back to finish college. He's told me a lot of times that he'd like to kick himself for not going back.

"I told Dad that no matter what, sooner or later, I'm going to get my degree."

Kerns knows that's a tough road. "If you're coming out of college and you don't reach Double A ball after a couple of years, then it's time to get on with your life," he said. "If you make it to Triple A in a couple of more years, then you've got a tough decision. I just hope I'm' in the position to find out."

Kerns said the decision to stay or go after this college season will be his own. "My dad went through it and he's letting me go through it," he said. "But my parents will play a part in it, even though the final decision will be mine."

Kerns is not the only one who appreciates his family. Shollenberger does, too.

"Our coaching staff is very appreciative of the Kerns family," the Bama head coach said. "It's a real compliment they thought enough of our program to send their younger son to play for us, too." Brian Kerns is a freshman third baseman for the Crimson Tide.

Whether there are still two Kernses at Alabama next year or just Brian is conjecture until the 1991 season unfolds. But Mickey isn't going to lose any sleep over it. "I'm just thinking about and trying to get ready for this season," he said. "Hopefully we'll have a good year as a team and I'll have a good year. Then we'll see what happens after that. I try not to think about it too much. If it's meant to be, it's meant to be."

Mickey Kerns, Alabama's starting shortstop the past two years, moves to a new position as a junior. As a centerfielder everyone thinks Kerns will best be able to show his potential. The bad news for Bama is that if he has a great year, he may sign professionally, giving up his senior year. Barry Fikes Photo

MICKEY KERNS' CAREER ALABAMA BASEBALL STATISTICS

Year	G	BA	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	SB
1989	34	.242	91	14	22	14	0	1	3	6	20	3-5
1990	54	.286	168	37	48	22	5	3	1	25	37	13-16
Totals	88	.270	259	51	70	36	5	4	4	31	57	16-21

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Football Signees:

Bama Scores Big In Recruiting

by Kirk McNair

It has been a while since Alabama fans were so excited about a class of new Crimson Tiders

Everything looked pretty rosy in the Alabama football camp the first week in February. Gene Stallings had just completed his first year on the job and it looked like he had collected his second major scalp. He took the first on December 1 when Alabama defeated Auburn on the football field. And Alabama's performance in the recruiting wars was a step in the right direction in filling the Crimson Tide pantry with major college football prospects.

Of course, recruiting is not strictly Alabama vs. Auburn, because when Alabama and Auburn go head-to-head there is no interference from Florida State or Michigan or Nebraska or the many other college football teams trying to pluck some talent from the Heart of Dixie. However, historically the best Alabama (and Auburn) teams have been made up primarily of players from Alabama high schools. So far, no one has suggested Bama was anything but a runaway winner for the top high school players in Alabama. In almost every rating the number one player in the state was tight end/defensive end Damiean Jeffries of B. B. Comer High School in Sylacauga. A few opted for versatile (quarterback, running back, wide receiver, defensive back, kick returner) David Palmer of Birmingham's Jackson-Olin High School as best. Alabama got them both. After the past few years, in which it was generally conceded that Auburn had out-recruited Bama in Alabama, it was something of a surprise that Auburn was not even runner-up for Jeffries or Palmer. Florida State was Alabama's top competition.

In addition to those marquee prospects, the Tide got a handful of linemen and linebackers and skill position players from within the state and suffered few losses. Indeed, the top prospects in Alabama who were not signed by Bama were either closely linked to Auburn (tight end William McCain, quarterback Patrick Nix, linebacker Ramon Luster) and/or they decided to go out of state.

Funny things happen in recruiting, but one can't help but wonder how Nebraska convinced defensive end Dwayne Harris of Bessemer that Nebraska could prepare him for medical school while Alabama could not. That was probably a shock to thousands of physicians who have received their pre-med education at The Capstone.

It is not possible to project the exact position of Alabama's 24 signees (because several are prospects at more than one position), but a guess is that the class includes one quarterback, two running backs, four wide receivers, five offensive linemen, two tight ends, five defensive linemen, two linebackers and three defensive backs.

If Alabama could have added anything else it almost certainly would have been another quarterback. It is no secret the Tide tried very hard to convince Heath Shuler of Bryson City, North Carolina, to cast his lot with Bama. However, geography was probably a factor as Shuler selected Tennessee, which is some four hours closer than Tuscaloosa to his home. One also notices there are no kickers in this signing class. Bama tried very hard for Kanon Parkman of Stone Mountain, Georgia, but he opted for his homestate university.

Stallings said his first priority was to recruit well in the state of Alabama and to that end he said he was pleased. And, he said, "I felt we needed to improve along the line on both offense and defense. You've heard me say that to win you've got to dominate on the line."

Incidentally, don't forget that the list of new Tiders does include one more defensive lineman. John Copeland, a 6-4, 280-pound defensive tackle signed in December. Copeland, who is from Valley of Fairfax, originally signed with Alabama two years ago, but was academically ineligible. He went to Hinds Junior College in Mississippi, where he was junior college player of the year. He signed on Alabama's 1990 allotment of 25 scholarships and entered The University this semester and he will take part in spring training.

If you can believe the so-called experts, Alabama had one of the nation's most successful football recruiting harvests this year.

Here's a look at some of those reports:

Max Emfinger's National High School Recruiting Service has never given Alabama signees much credit, but even Emfinger ranked Bama among the nation's top half dozen teams in 1991 recruiting. Of course, that's just good enough for a tie for third in the SEC the way Emfinger sees it. His top six are Penn State, Georgia, Florida State, Florida, with Alabama and Tennessee tied for fifth.

Another vote for Penn State as best in the nation came from Phil Groz of G&W Report (based in State College, Pennsylvania). The Nittany Lions are followed in G&W by Florida State, Michigan, Colorado, Washington, Georgia and Alabama seventh.

Penn State undoubtedly had an outstanding year. Alan Wallace of SuperPrep also ranked Penn State first, followed by Michigan, Florida State, Washington, Texas A&M and Alabama sixth.

Forrest Davis, who produces a recruiting service on just the Southeast out of Birmingham, had Alabama and Georgia grouped as first among Southeastern Conference teams.

Although no one considers the rankings of these men to bear total resemblance to accuracy, it helps to be ranked among the nation's best in one year when going after top prospects in the next year.

There is a chance Bama will add another player at some point. While Pete Dimario, a 6-foot-5, 275-pound offensive lineman from Central High School in Tuscaloosa, committed to Alabama, he has not qualified academically and it

Tim Barnett

Vann Bodden

Curt Brown

Elverett Brown

Shannon Brown

now appears that he will be a walkon next fall.

If Alabama does sign another player it will not necessarily be quickly. There are a handful—a very small handful—of prep prospects who have not yet signed. And there is always the possibility Bama would take a chance on a junior college player, notably quarterback Gary Clayton. However, there is evidence Bama is playing it very close to the vest on Clayton.

And it should be remembered that the 25th scholarship could be used later for a walkon or for a transfer. Junior college transfers who are eligible for admittance to a university in the spring semester can be signed in December using the previous recruiting year's leftover scholarships, if any.

Finally, Alabama still has to sign two players who did not qualify for athletic aid last fall. Quarterback Steve Christopher of Anniston and offensive lineman Napoleon Folks of Montgomery are in school at The University and progressing well. Bama will be able to sign them prior to them reporting in August. If none of the new signees is academically ineligible for athletic aid, the Tide will be one scholarship short of being able to sign Christopher and Folks (in which case one of them would be able to continue as they have this year, paying their own way to Alabama–perhaps with some sort of aid or loan). If one new signee is academically ineligible Bama could use that scholarship plus the one not used to sign Christopher and Folks. If two signees are ineligible both Folks and Christopher could be signed and the Tide would still have one scholarship remaining.

As of this writing a source indicates eight of Bama's 24 signees are not yet eligible, all of them because they have not yet made the required score on a standardized test (either 18 on ACT or 700 on SAT). Moreover, two players–defensive back Willie Gaston and linebacker Gari Jackson, both of Mobile Murphy–are projected in the media as unlikely to be able to qualify. However, there is nothing final about academic eligibility until the completion of the spring semester and the final standardized test examination, which is in June. (Information on any student's academic situation is protected by Federal law and so any information made public is volunteered by the student. Additionally, each player's height, weight, time in the 40-yard dash, and bench press ability is from either the player or his high school coach and there is sometimes a discrepancy in announced figures and actual numbers.)

Here, in alphabetical order, is a look at the newest members of the Alabama football family:

Tim Barnett, a 6-6, 250-pound tight end from Phillips High School in Bear Creek, could end up at any one of several positions, partly because of his 4.7 speed in the 40. He is considered a legitimate prospect as a tight end, offensive guard, defensive end or linebacker (inside or outside). In high school he also lined up from time-to-time at fullback or noseguard. As a senior he had 45 catches for 980 yards and five touchdowns for Coach Alton Romine. On defense he had 40 tackles, 10 pass deflections, five quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries. He was a four-year starter. He is also an excellent basketball player, all-state as a junior after averaging 20 points and 12 rebounds per game and averaging 24 points per game this year for the state's top-rated 2A basketball team. He will finish as his high school's all-time leading scorer. A very good student who is academically eligible, Barnett picked Alabama over Tennessee and Auburn.

Vann Bodden, a 6-5, 230-pounder from Moss Point, Mississippi, is a lifelong Alabama fan who didn't have much trouble deciding where he wanted to play football. The next question is what position he'll play. Although he is listed as an outside linebacker on many signee rosters (because that was his position at Moss Point), he said he was told by Bama coaches that they expected him to put on weight and play defensive end for the Crimson Tide. In the breakdown above he is one of the five defensive linemen. Bodden was considered the number seven prospect in the state of Mississippi this year as he was an All-South selection. As a senior for Coach Billy Miller he made 77 solo tackles, including 10 quarterback sacks. He also broke up 10 passes, caused five fumbles and recovered five fumbles. He runs a 4.7 40 and bench presses 325. His father, Tommy, played at Southern Miss. Bodden, who is academically eligible, picked Bama over Miami, LSU, Clemson, Notre Dame and FSU.

Better late than never, Alabama coaches might say when considering **Curt Brown**, a 6-2, 190-pound wide receiver from St. John's High School in Charleston, South Carolina. Brown may be one of the least-known Bama signees, at least by those who could only remember this year's prospects. A year ago everyone knew about Curt Brown. He was graduated from high school in 1989 but did not attend college last year, although he had been signed by Clemson, because he was not academically eligible. He now has four years of eligibility. As a prep senior he was one of the nation's top-rated receivers as he caught 27 passes for 470 yards and eight touchdowns. He runs an 11.1 100 meters and has a 35-inch vertical jump and runs a 4.45 40. Although he missed his junior season with a broken arm, he finished his career for Coach Robert Biggerstaff with 34 touchdown receptions, the third

Will Brown

Brian Burgdorf

Brent Clark

Keith Conegia

Willie Gaston

best total in South Carolina high school history, and 1,404 yards. Brown, who is academically eligible, also played five games at quarterback as a senior.

Elverett Brown, a 6-5, 270-pound defensive lineman from Jeff Davis High School in Montgomery, was selected to the 1991 *Birmingham News* Super Seniors team. Elverett (pronounced with a silent "L") was a 6A all-state selection. He turned in 59 tackles and 59 assists for Coach Charles Lee's team. He also had six quarterback sacks and two fumble recoveries. As a junior he had 10 quarterback sacks. In track he has a best mark of 48 feet in the shot put. He is academically eligible. Brown selected Bama over Auburn.

Shannon Brown, a 6-6, 250-pound defensive lineman from Stanhope-Elmore High School in Millbrook, was the feature subject in a number of newspapers because he is married and has a child. Brown was president of his senior class and is an excellent student who is academically eligible. He was a 5A all-state selection for Coach Jimmie Foshee. As a senior he had 86 tackles, six quarterback sacks, two fumble recoveries and one pass interception. He bench presses 330. Brown also plays basketball and baseball. He selected Alabama over Auburn.

Rumor has it that Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings told his staff there were dozens of good defensive backs a lot closer to Tuscaloosa than Syracuse, New York. Then he saw a film of **Will Brown**, a 6-2, 205-pound defensive back from Henninger High School in Syracuse, and instructed his coaches to get after him. In one respect, later may have been better. Prior to the end of the fall semester Brown did not have a 2.0 grade point average, which is necessary for college eligibility. That, Brown speculates, is the reason he quit hearing from Penn State and UCLA. Now he has the grade point average and SAT score and is eligible. He selected Bama over Tennessee. Brown was selected the New York Upstate Player of the Year as he led Coach Bob Campese's team to an 11-0 record and the state championship. On defense he had 135 tackles, six interceptions (three of which he returned for touchdowns), three fumble recoveries (and another touchdown), six fumbles caused, five sacks and six passes broken up. As a fullback, tight end and tailback he averaged seven yards per carry and had four touchdowns and averaged 34.3 yards per reception and had three more TDs. He also passed for a 10-yard touchdown. In the state championship game he had 15 tackles and had 150 yards receiving (including an 85-yard touchdown) and 50 yards rushing (including a 15-yard score). He is also captain of his basketball team, currently ranked fifth in the state, and is a sprinter on the track team. He runs a 4.5 40.

It may be that no Alabama signee brought such a sigh of relief as did **Brian Burgdorf**, a 6-2, 175-pound quarterback from Cedartown, Georgia. It's no secret that Bama felt a top quarterback had to be signed this year and Burgdorf fits the bill. He was a two-time all-state performer and was Georgia 3A player of the year and a prep All-America as a senior. He is also an outstanding baseball and basketball player. Burgdorf set all sorts of records for Coach John Hill's team. His four-year totals include 336 completions in 597 pass attempts (56.3 per cent) for 4,661 passing yards; 1,193 rushing yards (he runs a 4.5 40 and averaged over five yards per carry); 39 passing touchdowns; and 22 rushing touchdowns. He holds virtually every Cedartown passing record. As a senior he passed for 2,274 yards and 19 touchdowns, completing 126 of 205 passes (61.5 per cent), and rushed for 501 yards and one touchdown. In one game he completed 27 of 43 passes for 315 yards. He had four touchdown passes in another game. Burgdorf selected Alabama over Ole Miss, UCLA, Tennessee and LSU. He is an excellent student.

Brent Clark, a 6-3, 255-pounder from Plainview High School in Rainesville, was the 3A player of the year in Alabama, no easy feat for an offensive lineman. Of course, he was also pretty salty on defense–90 tackles, two fumble recoveries and a quarterback sack from his linebacker spot. He led Coach Dale Pruitt's Bears to a 14-1 record and a runnerup spot in the state playoff. With most of the offense behind Clark the Bears picked up over 4,000 yards. He has a 31-inch vertical jump, runs a 4.9 40 and bench presses 300 pounds. And at 17 years old, he may still be growing. He was the outstanding lineman in DeKalb County as

Future Tiders All-Stars

Alabama fans will have an opportunity to see about half of the Crimson Tide's 1991 recruiting class in action if they head to Mobile for the annual Alabama-Mississippi High School All-Star Game. That game will be played June 5 in Ladd Stadium and the Tide has some 11 future players on the Alabama team, two on the Mississippi team.

Selected for the Alabama team are:

Tim Barnett, Elverett Brown, Shannon Brown (as a placekicker!), Brent Clark, Willie Gaston, Gari Jackson, Damiean Jeffries, David Palmer, Sam Shade, Bryan Thornton and Sherman Williams.

Selected as an alternate for the Alabama team was Joey Harville.

Additionally, selected to play for the Mississippi team in that game are both of Alabama's signees from that state, Vann Bodden and Tony Johnson.

Also, Jon Stevenson has been selected to play in the Tennessee-Kentucky all-star game.

The Georgia and Florida all-stars for their annual game will be announced later.

Joey Harville

Gari Jackson

Damiean Jeffries

Tommy Johnson

Tony Johnson

a sophomore, junior and senior. He graded over 90 per cent on the field and is also academically eligible. He selected Bama over Auburn and Ole Miss.

Keith Conegia, a 6-4, 190-pound wide receiver from Father Lopez High School in Daytona Beach, Florida, learned his skills from a pretty good pass catcher. Former Florida star Wes Chandler is his high school coach. Unfortunately, Father Lopez didn't have a great passing quarterback last season and Conegia caught only 17 passes. However, his 4.4 speed turned them into 443 yards, over 26 yards per reception, and nearly half of those catches (eight) were for touchdowns. In one game he had six catches for 96 yards, and half those receptions couldn't go any further: touchdowns. He also turned in six interceptions as a senior, his third year as a starter on both offense and defense. He is a three-year starter in basketball (he's averaging 23 points and 11 rebounds per game this year) and a sprinter on the track team. He has a 2.6 grade point average, but just missed qualifying on the SAT (690) the first time he took it. He picked Alabama over Tennessee and Syracuse.

Willie Gaston, a 6-0, 180-pound defensive back from Murphy High School in Mobile, is a two-time 6A all-state selection and was ranked as the South's top defensive back. Murphy had a 25-3 record and twice finished as state runner-up the past two years. He had 101 tackles, four interceptions (one returned for a touchdown) and two blocked punts as a senior. As a junior he blocked five extra point kicks for Coach Larry Henderson. He is also an outstanding track man, running the 100-meter hurdles and long jumping. He is not yet academically eligible. Gaston chose Alabama over Florida State and Auburn.

One of the strongest of Bama's new signees is **Joey Harville**, a 6-5, 280-pound offensive lineman from Hatton High School in Town Creek. Harville bench presses 330 and can dead lift over 500 pounds. He also runs a 4.9 40, one reason he was a defensive star as well as a top offensive tackle for Coach Ron Danley. He was a four-year starter in high school and earned numerous regional and state honors and was named the state's top offensive line prospect by *The Montgomery Advertiser*. As a defensive tackle he had 94 tackles, including 12 quarterback sacks. He made 58 solo tackles as a junior. He is a scholastic All-America, ranking in the top 10 per cent of his class, and is academically eligible. Harville selected Alabama over Auburn and West Virginia.

Gari Jackson, a 6-3, 220-pound linebacker from Murphy High School in Mobile, has been compared to former Murphy and Tide star Keith McCants. He has been timed at 4.55 in the 40 and he bench presses 275. As a senior Jackson made 80 solo tackles (including 12 quarterback sacks) and also had 70 assists. Jackson was named to the *Birmingham News* Super Seniors team. He was a two-year starter and three-year letterman for Coach Larry Henderson. Jackson, who picked Alabama over Auburn, Clemson and Tennessee, is not yet academically eligible.

One of the most difficult things to discern about **Damiean Jeffries**, the tight end/defensive end from B. B. Comer High School in Sylacauga, is his size. He is variously listed from 6-4 to 6-7 and from 220 to 270. Best guess: 6-5, 250. The next thing to figure out is where he's going to play. While he was ranked as the nation's number one prospect at tight end (and was a *Parade* All-America), many believe he will be a defensive player at Alabama, either as an outside linebacker or a defensive end. Jeffries, who runs a 4.7 40, is also an outstanding baseball and basketball performer. As a senior he caught 18 passes for 327 yards and 10 touchdowns. As a defensive tackle he had 78 solo tackles and 53 assists and led his team in sacks with 17. He is a two-time all-state performer and the 1990 Class 4A Player of the Year in Alabama for Coach Bobby Overton. Jeffries could have gone to any school in the nation, but picked Bama over FSU and Auburn.

Tommy Johnson, a 5-11, 175-pound wide receiver from Niceville, Florida, was picked on many all-star teams a defensive back. *Gator Bait*, a publication covering University of Florida athletics, picked Johnson on its Sweet 16 list of the top players in the Sunshine State. He was a four-year starter for Coach Frank Sorrells at Niceville. As a senior he had 35 receptions for 450 yards and 325 yards rushing and 59 tackles and eight interceptions. He was a three-time all-state honoree and a *USA Today* honorable mention All-America as a senior. As a junior he had 25 receptions for 689 yards and nine TDs and had 88 tackles and eight interceptions and returned a punt for a TD. He had 25 career interceptions. Johnson, who runs a 4.55 40, also participates in track. Johnson, who is a B student, picked Alabama over LSU, FSU, Florida and Penn State.

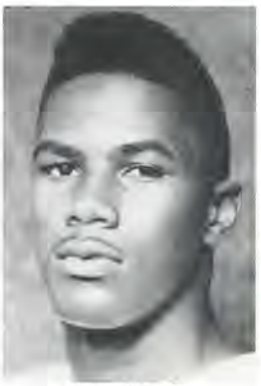
Alabama fans may have been skeptical **Tony Johnson**, a 6-4, 238-pound (not 225 as most reports list him) tight end from North Panola High School in Sardis, Mississippi, would be joining the Tide. Reports had him committed to Ole Miss and Illinois, as well as Alabama. However, the Player of the Year in Mississippi is Alabama-bound. As a senior for Coach Clifton Osborne Davis III, Johnson had 56 receptions for 1,777 yards and 19 touchdowns. He was a four-year starter. Johnson also played middle linebacker, and

Kareem McNeal

David Palmer

André Royal

Rory Segrest



Sam Shade

turned in impressive senior numbers (54 solo tackles, 37 assists, 19 quarterback sacks, five interceptions and five fumble recoveries), but is considered strictly an offensive prospect. His career statistics are 126 receptions for 2,151 yards and 38 touchdowns. He celebrated his 19th birthday the day before signing day. Johnson said he has a 3.4 grade point average and that he made 17 on the ACT (one point shy) the first time he took it. He runs a 4.5 40 and has a 34-inch vertical jump.

Kareem McNeal, a 6-5, 260-pound offensive lineman, commuted to high school each day at Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery. He lives in Tuskegee, where his father is a college professor. McNeal was an all-state selection as a senior and the Class 2A Player of the Year in Alabama. He had 179 "domination blocks" as a senior, a school record. McNeal runs a 5.1 40. He played for Coach John Poitevint. He also played tackle on defense. McNeal was all-city as a junior. He also is a center on the basketball team and is a shot put and discus man for the track and field team. He has a 3.0 grade point average and is academically eligible. McNeal picked Bama over Florida and Georgia Tech.

One of the more prestigious honors available to a high school football player in Alabama is being selected Mr. Football by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. This year that honor went to **David Palmer**, a 5-9, 165-pounder from Jackson-Olin High School in Birmingham. Palmer is considered a wide receiver in the breakdown of the incoming class by position but he has proved that he can play about any skill position. As a senior in virtually every game he lined up at quarterback part of the game, tailback another part, and wide receiver other times, and he was the kick return man and occasionally a defensive back for Coach Earl Cheatham's team. Last year he rushed for 2,119 yards and 26 touchdowns, passed for another 1,232 yards and 16 touchdowns. He has 4.4 speed in the 40. Palmer also plays basketball, baseball and is a sprinter on the track team. There has been speculation that Palmer might opt for a professional baseball career instead of a college football career, but baseball scouts insist he is not that caliber baseball player . . . yet. Palmer selected Alabama over FSU.

Bama didn't have to look far to find **André Royal**, a 6-3, 205-pound strong safety from Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport, just a few miles from The University. Although Royal was a prep linebacker, his 4.5 speed in the 40 marks him as a defensive back in college. He bench presses 315. A three-year starter, Royal was 6A all-state as a senior. As a senior he made 140 tackles, 95 solos (including eight quarterback sacks) and 45 assists, for Coach Jimmy Norrell's team. He also caused eight fumbles and recovered four fumbles and blocked five kicks. For his career he blocked 11 kicks. Royal selected Alabama over Memphis State and Auburn. He needs to have a good spring semester in the classroom and improve his standardized test score to be eligible.

When **'BAMA** called the home of **Rory Segrest**, a 6-5, 285-pound offensive lineman from Waycross, Georgia, in January to see if he had made a commitment, we were happy to hear he had chosen the Crimson Tide and happy and surprised to learn the Segrests have been subscribers to this publication for about six years. Knowing that earlier would have eased some worries over the chances of landing this all-state and All-South performer for Coach Dale Williams. Alabama Equipment Manager Tank Conerly has a worry, though: Segrest wears a size 18 shoe. He was named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super 11, but then downgraded to only 15th best prospect in the state after he committed to Alabama. Segrest bench presses 375 and runs a 5.0 40. He is also a shot put and discus man. He is an excellent student who is academically eligible. Segrest selected Bama over Clemson.

In the breakdown by positions above, **Sam Shade**, a 6-1, 195-pounder from Wenonah High School in Birmingham, is considered a running back. However, Shade is also an outstanding prospect as defensive back. But the main thing is he is now an Alabama back. A few weeks before signing day that didn't look too likely. Shade had cancelled his visit to Alabama, gone to Auburn instead, and later committed to the War Eagles. However, on reflection, Shade decided to make a visit to Bama (which had always been his first choice of schools) and after that selected the Crimson Tide. In addition to being a very fine football player for Coach Ronald Cheatum, Shade is an excellent student who is academically eligible. He was a *Birmingham News* Super Seniors selection. Shade wasn't blessed with a great supporting cast at Wenonah, but the do-everything man managed to gain over 800 yards rushing and he scored 12 rushing touchdowns. He has 4.5 speed in the 40 and also runs track at Wenonah. He also has great upper body strength, a 315 bench press to his credit. In addition to Alabama and Auburn, he was also heavily recruited by Miami and Georgia Tech.

Jon Stevenson, a 6-4, 290-pound offensive lineman from Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee, may have selected Alabama because of LeBaron Caruthers as much as for anything. Stevenson is a believer in the weight room and he was convinced Bama has it over most other programs because of the presence of Caruthers, the Crimson Tide's strength and conditioning coach. And

Jon Stevenson

Bryan Thornton

Jeff Torrence

Sherman Williams

Stevenson has it over most other offensive linemen, probably in great part to his weight room work habits. Stevenson was considered one of the nation's best, a prep All-America, and selected Bama over Notre Dame. He bench presses over 400 pounds and runs a 4.9 40 and has a 27-inch vertical leap. He is also an excellent student who is academically eligible. Stevenson was all-state and was named to the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*'s Tennessee Super Team. He was a four-year starter for Coach Wayne Gaia and also played on the defensive line. He's also a shot put man. His father, Robert, played football at Arkansas, while his brother, Clark, played at Memphis State.

Bryan Thornton, a 6-7, 285-pound defensive lineman from LeFlore High School in Mobile, missed part of his junior season with a knee injury, but that didn't keep the recruiters away. Thornton selected Bama over Auburn, LSU and Georgia Tech. He had 10 sacks in LeFlore's first five games for Coach Glenn Yancey as a junior, then had a very solid final season. Some publications felt he had lost some of his speed and quickness, but he runs under a 5.0 40 and he bench presses over 300. And he won't be 18 until midway through his freshman year at Alabama. He was selected to the *Birmingham News* Super Seniors squad. Thornton has a 2.7 grade point average but has not yet passed a standardized test for eligibility.

Jeff Torrence, a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker from Escambia County High School in Atmore, didn't get a lot of preseason attention, but his play caught the attention of recruiters during the season and he was selected to *The Tuscaloosa News* Sweet 16. He had 106 solo tackles (including eight quarterback sacks) and 59 assists last season for Coach Melvin Middleton. He also caused six fumbles, had four fumble recoveries, two interceptions, and he accounted for two safeties. He runs a 4.6 40 and bench presses 365. He has a 2.8 grade point average but must pass a standardized test to be eligible. Torrence selected Bama over Auburn

Sherman Williams, a 5-9, 180-pounder from Blount High School in Prichard, is considered by many to be tried as a defensive back when he arrives at Alabama. However, in the breakdown above we are considering him as a running back; and we think anyone who saw a film of him running the football would do the same thing. Williams has that look of instant offense. And he has the numbers, too. Last year he led Coach Benjamin Harris' team to the state title and Williams was named the 5A Player of the Year in Alabama and a *Birmingham News* Super Senior. He set a new state record with 3,004 yards rushing (breaking former Tider Major Ogilvie's mark of 2,540 yards). That is a single season record, not a career mark. He runs a 4.35 40 and averaged over 10 yards per carry. He scored 31 rushing touchdowns. It's understandable that defensive backs had to come up quickly when he had the football, which made it possible for him to complete 11 of 15 passes for 255 yards and three touchdowns. He also caught four touchdown passes.

The ones who got away

To say that Alabama "lost" any prospects in 1991 football recruiting is a misnomer, because a team can't lose what it doesn't have and none of these young men ever committed to Alabama. However, these are some it is believed Bama actively recruited, but who signed elsewhere. If one wanted to pinpoint real losses–that is, players Alabama really wanted and really had a good shot at getting–there would probably be only four names on this list: offensive lineman Robert Jackson, quarterback Heath Shuler, tight end Brandon Stelly, and offensive lineman Paul Taylor.

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Hometown	Lost To
James Bostic, rb	6-1	210	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	Auburn
Ed Davis, rb	5-9	185	Detroit	Michigan
Lethon Flowers, se-cb	5-11	185	Columbia, S.C.	Georgia Tech
Rondi Gibson, rb	5-11	180	Brewton	*Auburn
Dwayne Harris, dt	6-3	240	Bessemer	Nebraska
Damon Hood, fb	6-2	205	Bowling Green, Ky.	Kentucky
Robert Jackson, ol	6-7	320	Washington, D.C.	Clemson
Kendrick Jones, rb	5-10	180	Collierville, Tenn.	Tennessee
Ramon Luster, lb	6-0	230	Birmingham	Auburn
Geoff Miller, ol	6-4	270	Vero Beach, Fla.	Miami
Jessie Mitchell, de	6-3	260	Key West, Fla.	Miami
Jimmy Myles, dt	6-3	265	Pascagoula, Miss.	Mississippi State
Kanon Parkman, pk	5-11	170	Stone Mountain, Ga.	Georgia
Heath Shuler, qb	6-3	210	Bryson City, N.C.	Tennessee
Derrick Smith, lb	6-3	231	Memphis	Georgia
Damon Southward, lb	6-2	218	Homewood	Michigan
Brandon Stelly, te	6-4	250	Opelousas, La.	LSU
Paul Taylor, ol	6-5	255	West Rome, Ga.	Georgia
Robert Thibodeaux, dt	6-3	240	Kenner, La.	LSU
Bobby Williams, lb	6-2	218	Ruston, La.	LSU
Mark Zataveski, ot	6-7	250	Wyncote, Pa.	Notre Dame
Eric Zeier, qb	6-1	196	Marietta, Ga.	Georgia

*Committed to Auburn without visiting Alabama, but was not announced as signed.

1991 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

8	Alcorn State	2
8	Alabama-Birmingham	5
8	@ South Alabama	10
4	@ South Alabama	3
Feb. 27	@ Alabama-Birmingham	2:05
Feb. 28	Tennessee Tech (2)	2:00
Mar. 2	Illinois State (2)	2:00
Mar. 3	Illinois State	2:00
Mar. 4	Illinois State	2:00
Mar. 6	Northeast Louisiana	2:00
Mar. 9	Ohio State	1:00
Mar. 9	Furman	4:00
Mar. 10	Ohio State	1:00
Mar. 10	Furman	4:00
Mar. 13	Louisville	7:00
Mar. 14	Louisville	2:00
Mar. 16	@ Florida (2)	4:00
Mar. 17	@ Florida	1:30
Mar. 19	Eastern Kentucky	7:00
Mar. 20	Arkansas State	7:00
Mar. 21	Arkansas State	7:00
Mar. 23	@ Mississippi State (2)	1:00
Mar. 24	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Mar. 26	Illinois	1:00
Mar. 27	Illinois	1:00
Mar. 30	Tennessee (2)	4:00
Mar. 31	Tennessee	2:00
Apr. 3	Middle Tennessee State	7:00
Apr. 4	Middle Tennessee State	2:00
Apr. 6	Ole Miss (2)	4:00
Apr. 7	Ole Miss	2:00
Apr. 9	Murray State	7:00
Apr. 10	Muray State	2:00
Apr. 13	@ Georgia (2)	4:00
Apr. 14	@ Georgia	1:30
Apr. 17	Samford	7:00
Apr. 20	Auburn (2)	4:00
Apr. 21	Auburn	2:00
Apr. 23	Auburn @ Montgomery	7:00
Apr. 27	@ LSU (2)	4:00
Apr. 28	@ LSU	2:00
May 4	Kentucky (2)	4:00
May 5	Kentucky	2:00
May 7	South Alabama	7:00
May 8	South Alabama	2:00
May 9	Auburn @ Dothan	7:00
May 11	@ Vanderbilt (2)	1:00
May 12	@ Vanderbilt	1:30

(All times Central)

Men's Tennis

Feb. 1-Feb. 10	National Indoor @ Minneaplis (Invitational for individuals)	
6	Middle Tennessee	3
	Ice Volleys @ Minneapolis	
4	Clemson	5
5	Miami	4
7	Murray State	2
Feb. 26	Alabama-Birmingham	1:00
March 1	Southwestern Louisiana	1:00
March 2	Ole Miss	2:00
March 7-11	Corpus Christi (Texas) Invitational	
March 16	@ Georgia	TBA
March 21-24	Blue-Gray @ Montgomery	
March 28	@ Florida	TBA
April 3	LSU	2:00
April 6	@ Vanderbilt	TBA
April 8	@ Kentucky	TBA
April 13	Auburn	2:00
April 19	Tennessee	2:00
April 20	Mississippi State	2:00
April 25-28	SEC Championships @ Oxford	
May 17-26	NCAA @ Athens	

(All times Central)

Women's Tennis

	ALABAMA INVITATIONAL	
8	South Alabama	1
8	Ohio State	1
6	Alabama-Birmingham	0
	COMMODORE CUP	
4	Arkansas	5
4	Wake Forest	5
6	Samford	3
0	Georgia	9
5	Tennessee	3
	INDIANA INVITATIONAL	
1	Indiana	6
6	TCU	3
6	Texas A&M	3
	FSU INVITATIONAL	
March 1	@ Florida State	12:00
March 2	Michigan @ FSU	12:00
March 5	Mississippi State	1:30
	HOUSTON INVITATIONAL	
March 8	@ Houston	1:30
March 9	North Carolina @ Houston	1:00
	KENTUCKY INVITATIONAL	
March 23	@ Kentucky	12:00
March 24	SMU @ Kentucky	10:00 a.m.
March 30	@ Auburn	1:00
April 6	Florida	10:00 a.m.
April 11	@ Ole Miss	2:00
April 13	@ LSU	TBA
April 20	Vanderbilt	12:00
April 21	Auburn-Montgomery	12:00
April 25-28	SEC Championship @ Knoxville	
May 8-May 16	NCAA @ Palo Alto	

(All times Central)

Men's Golf

Feb. 6-10	Gator Invitational @ Gainesville (Tie for 4th of 18 teams)
Feb. 20-24	Doral/Taylor Made Invitational @ Miami (tie for 7th of 18 teams)
March 6-10	Jerry Pate Invitational @ Pensacola
March 20-24	Southeastern Invitational @ Montgomery
April 17-21	Eagle Invitational @ Savannah, Ga.
April 24-28	Billy Hitchcock Invitational @ Auburn
May 8-14	SEC Championships @ Starkville
May 22-24	NCAA Regionals, TBA

Women's Golf

Feb. 15-17	Lady Gator Invitational @ Gainesville (10th of 12 teams)
March 1-3	Auburn Invitational @ Eufaula
March 15-17	LSU Fairwood Invitational @ Baton Rouge
April 5-7	SMU Invitational @ Dallas
April 19-21	USA Invitational @ Foley
May 3-5	SEC Championships @ Lexington

Men's Track & Field

March 22-24	Alabama Relays
March 29-30	Florida Relays @ Gainesville
April 6	Crimson Classic (Kansas, Michigan, Ole Miss, Indiana, Washington State)
April 13	@ Oregon
April 20	Ole Miss Invitational @ Oxford
April 25-27	Penn Relays @ Philadelphia
May 5	Auburn Invitational @ Auburn
May 16-19	SEC Championships @ Baton Rouge
May 23	Last Chance Invitational @ Atlanta
May 29-June 1	NCAA @ Eugene, Oregon

Women's Track & Field

March 22-24	Alabama Relays
March 29-30	Florida Relays @ Gainesville
April 6	Crimson Classic (Kansas, Michigan, Ole Miss, Indiana, Washington State)
April 13	@ Oregon
April 20	Ole Miss Invitational @ Oxford
April 25-27	Penn Relays @ Philadelphia
May 5	Auburn Invitational @ Auburn
May 16-19	SEC Championships @ Baton Rouge
May 23	Last Chance Invitational @ Atlanta
May 29-June 1	NCAA @ Eugene, Oregon

1990-91 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

86	Brazil (Exhibition)	52
88	Spirit Express (Exhibition)	83
72	Delaware	47
96	Wake Forest	95 (OT)
82	Southern Miss (@ Birmingham)	84
71	@ Wichita State	74 (OT)
79	@ North Carolina (ESPN)	95
79	VMI	45
62	@ U-T–Chattanooga	58
	Blue Angels Classic @ Pensacola	
71	Towson State	52
93	North Carolina-Charloette	67
68	@ Auburn (ESPN)	56
55	@ Vanderbilt	66
72	Florida	64
76	@ Ole Miss	73 (OT)
80	LSU (ESPN)	90
67	Georgia (CBS)	62
59	@ Mississippi State	68
88	Kentucky (JP)	83
83	@ Tennessee	74
88	Auburn	80
79	Ole Miss	74
88	@ Florida (JP)	80
66	Vanderbilt	55
81	@ LSU (ABC)	88
68	@ Georgia (JP)	73
97	Mississippi State	72
Feb. 26	@ Kentucky (ESPN)	8:30
March 2	Tennessee (JP)	1:00
March 7-	SEC Tourney	
March 10	@ Nashville	

(All times Central)

Women's Basketball

68	Sweden (Exhibition)	72
	UNLV Invitational Tournament	
62	UNLV	80
76	San Francisco	61
89	Jacksonville State	79
106	Tuskegee @ Birmingham	41
92	Auburn-Montgomery	69
	Radford Tournament	
96	Delaware State	44
72	Morgan State	42
78	@ Auburn-Montgomery	57
55	@ New Orleans	67
	Shoney's Classic	
72	Lamar	62
62	Georgia State	21
57	@ Louisiana Tech	63
84	@ Alabama-Birmingham	70
61	Tennessee	86
73	Vanderbilt	63
65	@ Florida State	88
99	@ Alabama State	71
69	@ Mississippi State	57
72	@ Kentucky	65
48	@ Auburn	77
72	Ole Miss	78
90	@ Florida	93 (OT)
105	Alabama State	74
66	@ LSU	78
47	@ Georgia	83
73	Mississippi State	56
Feb. 26	Southeastern Louisiana	7:00
March 1-	SEC Tournament	
March 4	@ Albany, Georgia	

(All times Central)

Gymnastics

188.85	@ Auburn	185.95
192.10	Penn State	189.50
192.75	@ Georgia	191.80
192.75	LSU @ Georgia (ESPN)	190.20
192.00	Arizona State	188.85
192.00	Auburn	186.75
192.00	Minnesota	183.75
194.15	UCLA	191.15
193.25	@ Oklahoma	189.95
193,25	Missouri @ Oklahoma	188.45
192.80	@ Nebraska	187.20
192.80	Arizona State @ Nebraska	186.65
March 2	@ Florida	6:30
March 8	@ Arizona	7:30
March 8	Michigan State @ Arizona	7:30
March 16	Nebraska	7:30
March 23	SEC Championships @ Lexington	
April 6	NCAA Central Regionals @ Auburn	
April 19-20	NCAA Championships (Coleman Coliseum, Tuscaloosa)	

(All times central)

Men's Track

Jan. 25-26	USAir Invitational (Johnson City, Tennessee)
Feb. 2	Purple Tiger Invitational – 5th (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Feb. 8	Barnett Bank Invitational – 5th (Gainesville, Florida)
Feb. 23-24	SEC Championships – 5th (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
March 2	Last Chance Invitational (Indianapolis, Indiana)
March 8-9	NCAA Championships (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Men's Swimming

136	Georgia	107
129	@ Texas	143
121	@ SMU	122
141	Kentucky	96
	Rammer Jammer Invitational	

Kansas 719, Alabama 667, Georgia 531, South Carolina 425, Florida State 312, Miami 268, Florida 254, Auburn 224

145	Florida	87
121	Auburn	120
83	@ LSU	142
76	@ Tennessee	128
Feb. 21-	SEC Championships	3rd
Feb. 23	@ Lexington	
March 7-9	NCAA Diving Qualifying	All Day
March 28-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 30	@Austin, Texas	

(All times central)

Women's Swimming

124	Georgia	169
94	@ Texas	181
97	@ SMU	144
130	Kentucky	111
	Rammer Jammer Invitational	

Florida 702, Georgia 683, Kansas 479, Alabama 449, Miami 368, Auburn 333, South Carolina 321, Florida State 216

110	Florida	183
137	Vanderbilt	72
123	Auburn	120
96.5	@ LSU	139.5
118	@ Tennessee	171
Feb. 21-	SEC Championships	4th
Feb. 23	@ Lexington	
March 7-9	NCAA Diving Qualifying	All Day
March 21-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 23	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	

(All times central)

Women's Track

Jan. 25-26	USAir Invitational (Johnson City, Tennessee)
Feb. 2	Purple Tiger Invitational – 2nd (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Feb. 8	Barnett Bank Invitational – 4th (Gainesville, Florida)
Feb. 23-24	SEC Championships – 4th (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
March 2	Last Chance Invitational (Indianapolis, Indiana)
March 8-9	NCAA Championships (Indianapolis, Indiana)

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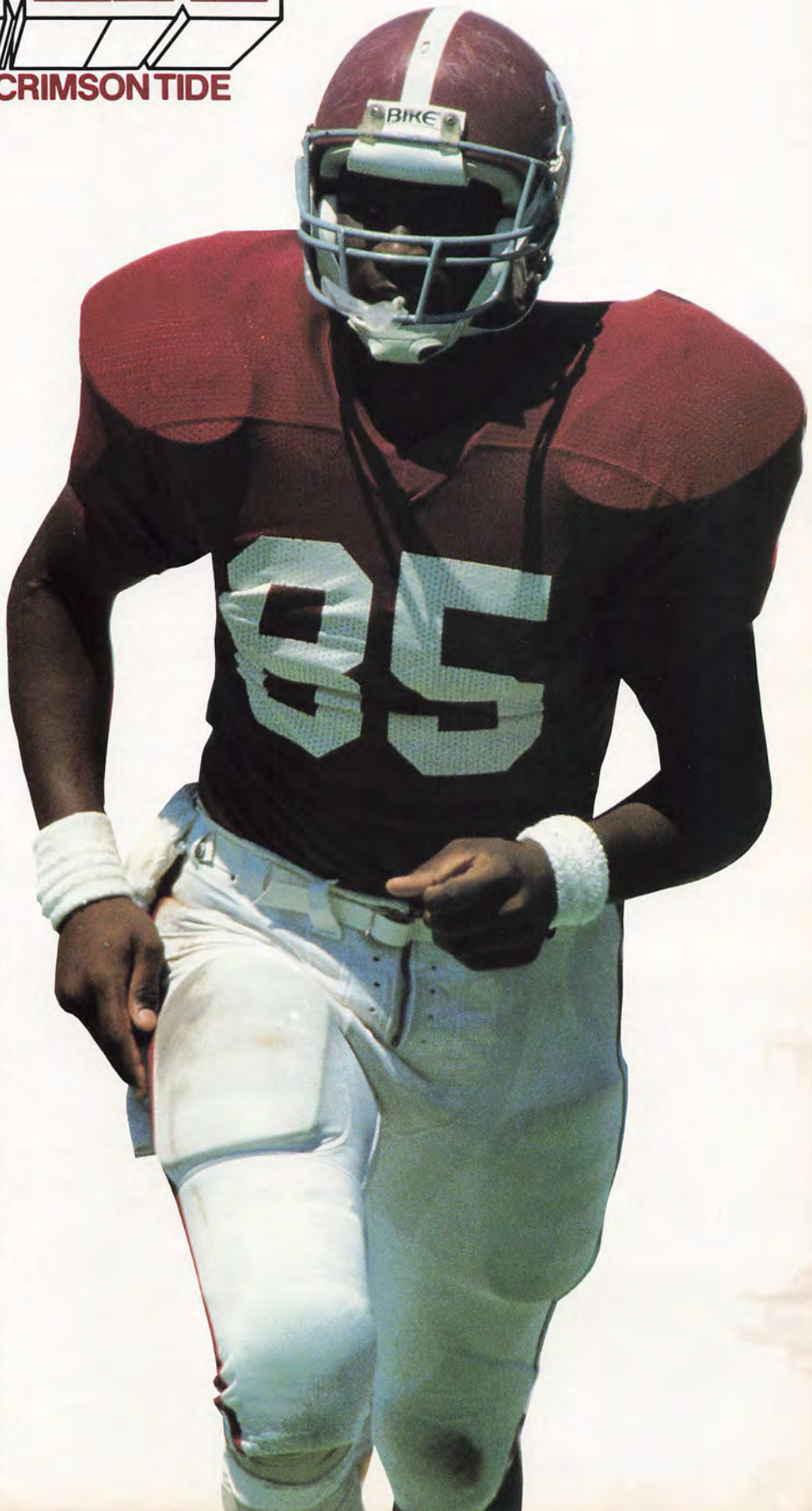

IF THEY LOOK LIKE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS, YOU'RE ONLY SEEING PART OF THE PICTURE.

Toyota congratulates the 1990 Leaders of the Year and weekly Leadership Award recipients. Toyota extends special congratulations to Eddie Robinson of Alabama State University and Todd Sandroni of the University of Mississippi for being chosen as Leaders of the Year. Toyota recognizes all the students listed below for excelling in athletics, academics, and community service. Their discipline and unrelenting effort toward these goals make them more than team players; these qualities make them leaders.

The example they have set is an inspiration to us all, and we're proud to add their names to a growing roster of Leadership Award recipients.

So take a good look at the list below, because there's a lot more talent on the field than you may realize.

TOYOTA
"I love what you do for me."

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Ike Ayozie
Jackson State University

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Virginia Union University

Dave Brzenchek
Penn State University

Curtis Butts
San Diego State University

Pedro Cherry
Auburn University

Irvin Clark
Florida A&M University

Kelvin Coney
Southern University

DeRocke Croom
Hampton University

Rodney Culver
University of Notre Dame

Antone Davis
University of Tennessee

E'Vinski Davis
Grambling State University

Robert Dendy
South Carolina State College

Ty Detmer
Brigham Young University

Derek Dooley
University of Virginia

Scott Evans
University of Oklahoma

Chris Gale
Jackson State University

Brian Gary
Tuskegee University

Oscar Giles
University of Texas

Craig Gob
University of Pittsburgh

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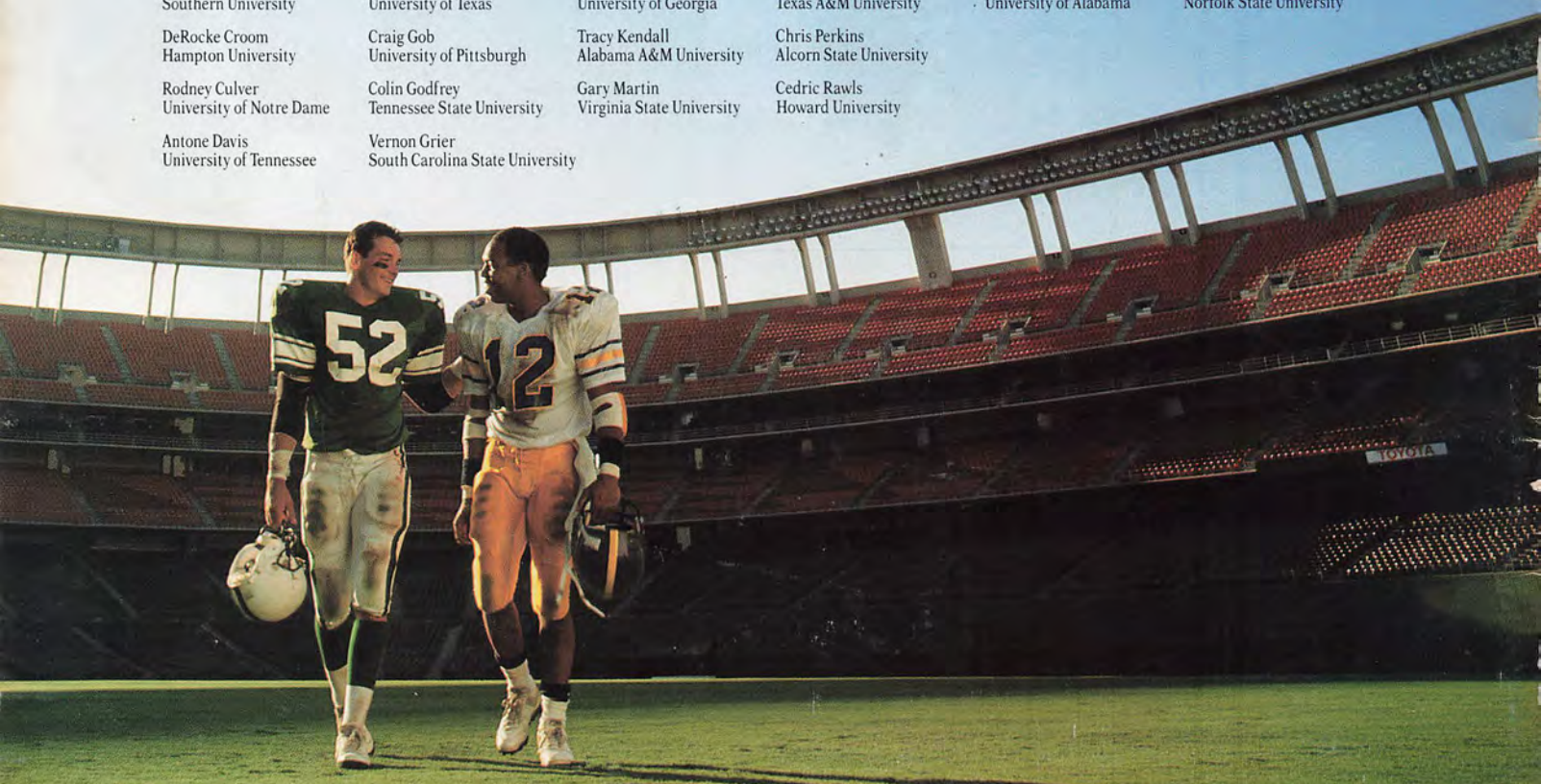

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